Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-91-098 *21 May 1991*

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Cuba

Commentary Denounces U.S. Initiative

FL2105010891 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2306 GMT 20 May 91

[Lazaro Barredo commentary: Bush, 20 May, and Cheap Patriots]

[Text] Greetings my friends. Today, 20 May, President Bush, with the euphoria of those frustrated people who have been bewitched by anti-Cuban policies, wanted to call on our country to accept conditions to return to the safety of the U.S. sphere of influence.

Evidently, U.S. rulers like this date. They dream about lost power. Do they really believe that they are going to intimidate us again, as they did 90 years ago with the constitution? Are they so historically illiterate that they do not realize that imperial conditions have no place here, that Cuban policies, the solutions to Cuban problems, the possible paths of Cuba, will only be determined by Cubans—the Cubans who live in Cuba—and that anything else is a dirty fantasy?

What, other than disgrace, do the slumbering and dogmatic schemers celebrate in the United States? They call today the Cuban independence day. What honest Cuban is not shaken by that slap in the face with which the Republic was born on 20 May 1902, the shame that was suffered after the frightened flunkies grouped themselves into the pharisaical idea of a party, the Democratic Union, and submitted to U.S. interests and confirmed the shameful amendment to the Constitution that was imposed by the U.S. Congress, the Platt Amendment and its seven conditions, so that Cuba could become a republic?

It is worth remembering those seven outrageous conditions the Americans imposed on that republic so that 20 May would take place. I am going to cite them exactly, and you can make your own comments.

What were Cuba's duties? Let us listen. First, to acknowledge the U.S. right to interfere in Cuba's internal affairs. Second, to limit Cuba's rights to sign agreements and treaties with foreign powers or grant any kind of privilege without previous U.S. approval. Third, to limit Cuba's rights to obtain credit abroad without previous U.S. approval. Fourth, to acknowledge the right of the United States to obtain land and have naval bases in Cuba. Fifth, to recognize and observe all laws passed by U.S. military authorities and the rights resulting from these laws. Sixth, the administration of sanitation measures to the Cuban population to protect commerce and the people of the southern United States. And seventh, to exclude the Isle of Pines—currently the Isle of Youth—from Cuban territorial limits in the Constitution.

What honest Cuban would be part of the mockery in which some Yankee takes it upon himself to write things about Cuba, as U.S. military Governor Leonard Wood wrote to incoming U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt showing that for them the 20 May 1902 Republic was nothing but a mediocre caricature?

Here are some excerpts of that letter. I quote: Of course with the Platt Amendment, we have left Cuba with little or no independence. The practical thing now is to obtain annexation. This will require some time. With the control we have on Cuba, which undoubtedly will turn into a possession before long, we will soon control the entire world sugar trade. I believe that Cuba is a very desirable acquisition for the United States. Unquote.

What honest Cuban would allow such an outrage to happen again? President Bush and his oracles are mistaken. The events in Eastern Europe have intoxicated them with self-satisfaction. But everything will be different here. The (?dictated) policy ended a long time ago. We will be nobody's subjects even if we have to temporarily face the difficulties caused by its criminal blockade and the European mess imposed on us.

These are the principles they do not understand. We are not as obstinate as they portray us. Cubans are not peasants nor do they practice xenophobia. We are willing to establish communication links with anyone under the basis of respect for the principle of self-determination. However, no U.S. ruler will ever be able to impose conditions again. Not a single one. No matter how much he is applauded by those who behave as jubilant cheap patriots over there.

Chinese Party Leader Meets Lionel Soto

FL2105014691 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Zhao Zongnai, head of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee friendship delegation, has met with Lionel Soto, vice president of the Council of Ministers [title as heard]. The Chinese leader showed interest in the Cuban economic situation, especially the foreign economic relations and the special period. Zhao Zongnai and Lionel Soto also exchanged information on the numerous current and future tasks in the building of communism in China and Cuba. The need to develop solidarity and strengthen the struggle for national independence and socialism in the face of the imperialist intervention was stressed.

Returning Soldiers Express Commitment

FL2005141491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Another group of internationalist combatants has returned to Cuba from the People's Republic of Angola. Our reporters recorded the soldiers' feelings on their return home.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified soldier] I am filled with pride upon completion of our mission in Angola, and I am ready to continue with this one, which I think is as important as that one.

[Second unidentified soldier] Forward, forward ahead, there is nothing more to say.

[Third unidentified soldier] We are not easy prey; you have to put up a real struggle to defeat us.

[Fourth unidentified soldier] We wish to help our country with all our strength and give our highest effort to whatever Fidel asks of us, anywhere, anything, at any time, for whatever is needed.

[Reporter] The welcoming ceremony was attended by Division General Senen Casas Regueiro, alternate member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba; Brigadier General Roberto Viera; and Colonel Silvano Colas, directorate chief of Minfar [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces].

[Silvano Colas] On behalf of our people, its only party, and its undefeated commander in chief, we welcome you to our beautiful green alligator [Cuba], which as Guillen said: swims in the map, except that it has a fixed trajectory, toward a future of heroism and socialism. [end recording]

Fidel Named Delegate to Steelworkers Congress

FL2105021791 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0202 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Cubana Steelworking Enterprise workers today elected Commander in Chief Fidel Castro as delegate to the eighth congress of the National Iron, Steel, and Electronics Workers Union. During the first Havana assembly for the discussion of the main report of the congress announced for February 1992, Army General Raul Castro and Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, members of the Politburo, were also approved as delegates.

Pedro Miret and Pedro Ross, secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation, were also elected as delegates to the event. Pledges such as 15,000 hours of voluntary work in the center were made. Angel Villareal, secretary general of the National Iron, Steel, and Electronics Workers Union, made the closing remarks and said that it is essential to make a daily analysis of difficulties and find solutions to them.

Cuban-Algerian Commission Starts Sessions

FL2005185291 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] The seventh Cuban-Algerian joint intergovernmental commission started its sessions today in Havana. The Algerian delegation is headed by Mohamed Serradj, minister of posts and telecommunications. The Cuban delegation is headed by Manuel Castillo Rebasa, minister of communications.

The relations of cooperation between the two countries date back to 1963, and have included scientific, technical and commercial exchanges on basic industry, light industry, health, sports, transport, fishing, science, and culture among others. Algeria is a north African country with 23 million people that in 1989 installed a new constitution, a multiparty system, and other socio-economic reforms.

* Rosales Central Army 30th Anniversary Speech

91CA0115A Havana GRANMA in Spanish 6 Apr 91 p 2

[Speech by Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro on 4 April 1991 in Villa Clara at a national ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the Central Army]

[Text] Comrades:

It gives me particular satisfaction to share with the founders and current members of the Central Army the joy, the reminiscences, and the new commitments that we make as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of this important command group of our Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR).

The combatants of the Army can look with pride at how far we have come, and can draw from that the inspiration and experience to continue onward. The determination to face the enemy without flinching, the willingness to do their duty no matter how much sacrifice it demanded, and the close ties to the people that characterized the rebels and militiamen of 1961, are also present in the generation that is now taking up arms. This generation has the advantage of being able to draw upon the experience of past years and the superior training they have received on all fronts.

The Central Army was born on 4 April 1961. The mission assigned to it by the commander in chief was clear, although not at all simple: to repulse any armed aggression from abroad, and to liquidate the counterrevolutionary bands in the areas encompassing the old provinces of Camaguey, Las Villas, and the eastern part of Matanzas.

The invasion at Playa Giron [Bay of Pigs] came only three days after the Central Army was formed right in the territory it was responsible for. The units of the Central Army, made up of rebel and militia combatants, most of whom were fresh from the Escambray clean-up, immediately went to the invaded region and faced the aggressor without mercy.

The members of the 339th Battalion of Cienfuegos had the honor of being the first to face the mercenary force and to show the people's willingness to defend the Socialist Fatherland.

After the defeat of the invasion, the imperialists decided to play the card of the counterrevolutionary bands once again. Their main center was the Escambray Mountains, and it was there that the blood of 295 of our comrades, many of them members of this Army, along with the stoicism and valor of thousands of soldiers and militiamen, succeeded in clearing the enemy out of that part of the Fatherland. This feat was repeated later on in

many parts of the world when hundreds of thousands of Cubans contributed to the independence of other friendly peoples.

Our history of combative traditions has shown that no task is impossible for a revolutionary when he is inspired by faith in victory, which forms a barrier against which the discouragement and defeatism of the fainthearted and the weak in spirit are crushed and smashed to pieces.

From Cespedes to Fidel, when under very difficult and similar conditions they demonstrated that 12 men were enough to continue the struggle and triumph, a principle was being laid down that would be expressed in numerous episodes of our epic. Outstanding among these is the one carried out by the man who was the commander of this Army and is now a Commander of the Revolution, Juan Almeida Bosque. When someone suggested a surrender during the battle of Alegria de Pio, he proclaimed: "No one surrenders here!" accompanied by a manly obscenity.

Let the enemies know that this is the bloodline of our combatants, who have been trained in courage and innovation by Gomez with his first machete charge; trained in loyalty by Panchito, who fell defending the inert body of his leader; and trained in greatness and tenacity by the Titan of Baragua, all of which became purified in a nation that astounded the world when it said it would prefer a nuclear holocaust to the loss of its dignity, morality, and sovereignty in the glorious days of October 1962, when this Army, following the orders of the commander in chief, mobilized in a very short time more than 50,000 men, including 39,000 reservists.

In the daily struggle to consolidate and defend the young Revolution, in the long days of sweat and sacrifice, a reservoir of communists was being formed.

We remember that day, 10 October 1964, when the first party organizations in the Army were founded at a ceremony presided over by the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. Since that time, it has been impossible to imagine any important development in the life of this command group that does not involve the organizations of the Party and the Union of Young Communists (UJC) and the personal example of their members.

The following years were, and are, just as they are for all of the FAR, a time of improvement, a time for the assimilation of new structures, technology, and weaponry to make it possible for us to deter the enemy or to hand him a humiliating and crushing defeat if he should dare launch an attack.

For this reason, putting into practice the idea of the war of all of the people has been and continues to be the principal challenge for the combatants in the Army. Hundreds of thousands of men and women, workers, peasants, students, professionals, and housewives have multiplied many times our potential for defending the territory. The considerable effort made in the process of creating and preparing the provincial and municipal headquarters, the units of the Territorial Troops Militia (MTT), the defense zones with their production and defense brigades, and the special combat formations, is already bearing fruit in a significant way. In the future, this work will not diminish in the least; in fact, it must increase, and above all, it must be of better quality and efficiency.

The fact that this great collective has had its Ready for Defense status confirmed in the first stage and that it has been named best army in the fraternal emulation program among the armies, is just one of many telling factors that demonstrate the hard-working spirit that prevails here. It is the result of the efforts of thousands of men and women who have made their contribution to the development of the Central Army in the last 30 years.

Our Country Faces the Most Exceptional Moment in Its History

Comrades:

Our country faces the most exceptional moment in its history, and it is an honor to witness the epic of this era.

The collapse of the socialist camp and the complex situation in the USSR not only have serious economic implications for us, but have also placed the reactionary forces, and in particular the United States, in a favorable position for achieving their objective of becoming the lords of a unipolar world under their hegemony.

Today the circles of power in the United States are experiencing a triumphant euphoria; and in this situation reactionary, "gusano" [Cuban exile], puppet politicians of all stripes raise their voices to demand that the example set by Cuba be erased from the face of the earth. And there is no shortage of timorous, hesitant types who, like rats, are anxious to abandon ship at the first sign of danger.

We are living in difficult times, and under these circumstances every manager, political worker, and combatant will put more faith than ever in the Party, and in the honesty and intelligence of our leaders. They will do their military, labor, and social duty modestly but selflessly; they will seek the best solutions to whatever unusual situations may arise; they will explain any matter, regardless of how complicated it may appear, with all the necessary elements and reasons to convince people; they will be critical, self-critical, and intransigent in the face of any manifestation of corruption, cronyism, and softness; they will act with the wisdom, maturity, and intensity that the times warrant; they will combat mercilessly any rumor, leakage, or indiscipline that arises; and they will defend revolutionary positions at all times, convinced that this is the right path to follow in order to resist, struggle, and triumph.

The experiences derived from the Persian/Arab Gulf War confirm the validity and relevance of the idea of the war of all the people, which harmoniously combines regular and irregular forms of struggle. This type of warfare introduces drastic changes in tactics. It uses the natural intelligence of an entire nation that is prepared

for war to confront the sophisticated technology of artificial intelligence, in that every man and woman has a means, a place, and a way to face the enemy and to ensure his defeat.

The Cuban people are firmly convinced that principles and dignity are being defended at all costs, without regard for the consequences. Our own history shows us that this is the only path that leads to victory.

With the Revolution and socialism, the ideas and the dignity of Cespedes, Maceo, and Marti triumphed once and for all in Cuba. The immortal example of the handful of brave men who salvaged Cubans' honor at Baragua has been multiplied today in millions of their compatriots.

The descendants of the Mambisas [Cuban patriots during the Spanish era] of '68 and '95; the veterans of Moncada, the Sierra Maestra and the clandestine struggle; the men of Giron, the struggle against the bandits and the October Crisis; the combatants of Angola and Ethiopia; all of the militia members and combatants of Cuba, are shouting out louder than ever today.

We are men of Baragua!
Long live our unbeaten commander in chief!
Socialism or death!
Fatherland or death!
We shall overcome!

Barbados

West Indian Commission To Focus on Media

FL2005205391 Bridgetown CANA in English 1956 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 20, CANA—A meeting with media representatives here Tuesday will open another round of West Indian Commission consultations on the future of the Caribbean integration movement. Submissions are expected Tuesday from the Caribbean Association of Media Workers (Camwork), the Caribbean News Agency (CANA), and other media bodies, as well as unions, regional organisations, and members of the University of the West Indies. The Commission will meet government and opposition leaders Wednesday, and representatives of small business, arts and culture, and women's, youth, and sports groups Thursday. Barbados, which will also have public hearings Tuesday and Wednesday, is the tenth regional state where the Commission has canvassed opinion under its mandate from Caribbean Community (Caricom) leaders. Sessions were also held in Britain. Submissions to the Commission headed by Sir Shridath Ramphal have earlier included the need for a common currency, free movement of people, improved mass communication systems, and greater popular consultation. There have also been reservations about the prospects for integration. Camwork president Rickey Singh said concerns to be raised by media workers include a need for greater respect for the rights of practitioners. He cited instances of interference in the newsroom functions of journalists by politicians and, to a lesser extent, representatives of leading businesses, as cause for concern.

The Association also wants government and privately owned media and regional media organisations to participate in a special roundtable to discuss how the media could better serve the interests of the Caribbean. Camwork, which is supporting a mixture of public and private ownership of media in the region, wants the Commission to consider the causes of the less-than-optimal use of even state-owned media to inform and educate about regional and international issues. Women's representative Kathleen Drayton said concerns to be raised include employment conditions for women, especially with respect to the policy of inviting foreign investors to establish factories in the region to operate with "cheap female labour." The women's submissions will also focus on the need for policies to reflect the different impacts of phenomena, such as poverty, on women and men. Drayton and other representatives of women's organisations met Commission director, General Don Brice, last week, raising a number of issues, including the level of women's representation on the Commission. Brice urged the women to take the issues up at the consultations this week.

According to Drayton, the submissions will also deal with the question of free movement of people in the region, public communication systems, the connection between changes in the economic system and family structure in the region, and the need for discussion between governments and the people. Earlier hearings received calls for a regional radio station, public education on integration, cheap telecommunications to help bring the region together, and free movement of people and capital.

A Montserratian submission raised the question of whether Montserrat and other small islands could have been better off in an all-Caribbean nation, while a Kittitian warned of the danger of erosion of employment openings where there is free movement of people from economically depressed territories of the region.

Dominican Republic

Citizen Freed by Cuba Arrives, Criticizes Castro

FL2005183091 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] A Dominican citizen who spent 20 years in the political prisons of Cuba returned to our country yesterday and immediately raised charges against Fidel Castro's regime. Emenecio de la Cruz Martinez spoke with reporters at the Americas International Airport and later from the house of relatives in the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican worker traveled to Cuba in 1969 to join subversive groups training in guerrilla warfare. De la

Cruz Martinez was accused of espionage by Havana's communist regime and condemned to 25 years in jail. He completed 20 years in a prison compound.

Upon his arrival from Havana on a commercial flight, the former leftist militant said that in Cuba all political power is held by Castro and anything else is a facade.

Haiti

Flag Day Celebrated Without Incident

FL2105013691 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 20 May 91

[Excerpts] Saturday, 18 May, was Flag and University Day in Haiti. The flag is a symbol of union, unity, the symbol of the struggle for liberation of the country, for better living conditions, and the struggle for national independence. For this occasion, a great celebration unfolded in Arcahaie, where the Haitian flag was created on 18 May 1803, as well as in Port-au-Prince at the National Palace, where fundamental demands were presented and social and political problems aired. Our colleague Jean-Robert Philippe, who was on the spot in Arcahaie, tells us how things were.

[Begin recording] [Philippe] It was in Arcahaie that the first part of the feast was celebrated on the occasion of the 188th anniversary of the creation of our flag. Demonstrations were orchestrated by the organizing committee using the theme, justice and freedom. The representative of the Quarters Committee, Jean Raymond, gave a long speech on Arcahaie, a city of more than 68,000. What does this city represent to each Haitian?

He said that young people are the country's hope. He also used the occasion to present a register of grievances, on behalf of the residents of Arcahaie, to the government representatives in attendance. [passage omitted]

President Aristide focused his speech on the theme, one flag, one appointment. [passage omitted] The president also tackled many of the problems the country is facing today, including adult illiteracy, the universal right to an education, and peasant land problems. The president took this opportunity to announce that anyone cultivating two carreaux [one carreau = 3.19 acres] of state-owned land will be exempt from paying the General Directorate of Taxes [office in charge of taxes and state-owned properties]. [passage omitted]

Concerning the justice program, the president made the announcement that a judge who had the responsibility of arresting a certain macoute never did; and that the government commissioner who then had the responsibility of arresting the judge failed to do so; and that, consequently, the rope has fallen on the head of this commissioner. Observers are wondering whether this is the reason Justice Minister Bayard Vincent withdrew from the government. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that security measures were increased in Arcahaie after rumors in Port-au-Prince and Arcahaie that a group close to Roger Lafontant, calling itself the Seventh Fleet, planned to disrupt the 18 May demonstration in Arcahaie. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Students Celebrate

FL2105002591 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 20 May 91

[Report on celebration of Flag and University Day at the National Palace, Port-au-Prince on 18 May—live and recorded]

[Excerpts] It was an occasion for several delegations of students to keep an appointment with history. For the event, the president of the republic, Reverend Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, invited the people to reflect on the great work of our ancestors. As it was also University Day, he focused on the autonomy of the university, a valuable instrument intended to serve the whole nation. Let us listen to the report of Louis-Seize Frantz.

[Begin recording] [Frantz] After the ceremony in Arcahaie on the morning of 18 May, the festivities continued at the National Palace, where delegations of young people and students gathered on the grounds of the National Palace to demonstrate their reverence for our forefathers who died for the flag. This day was a great day, a thoughtful day.

According to the representatives of FENEH, the National Federation of Haitian Students, the nation's development cannot be achieved without the participation of young people. The students discussed their problems with the faculties. They spoke of the injustice of the system and the high cost of living that is preventing them from learning as they should. They also talked about the Duvalierist structure that is eroding the university from within. They asked for autonomy for the state university. [passage omitted]

Education Minister Leslie Voltaire said that the university is autonomous and that the university must depend on neither government nor a ministry. There must be proper coordination among the professors and students so that the university can function efficiently. He expressed his wish for the university to become an example not only for the country, and for the whole world. [passage omitted]

The president, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, spoke. He said that there is only one flag, only one appointment, and that appointment is around the table [as heard]. The country that began with change must continue with the change, the change that all of us need. The president congratulated the Haitian people who made 16 December and 7 February possible. He also discussed the university campus. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Youth Group Demonstrates for Government Reforms

FL2005231691 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 17 May 91

[Excerpts] A demonstration of young people is being held today in the capital to demand reforms in public administration. It is through peaceful demonstration that some citizens groups in the capital intend to force the government to enact changes in the state machinery. It is essential, according to these youth, that the government banish from office those connected to the former regime and open its doors to popular organizations. The demonstration began at Saint-Jean-Bosco and will continue on to the National Palace. Jean-Max Cyprien reports.

[Begin recording] [Cyprien] Nothing is more harmful to the struggle to rebuild a country than a company of flatterers surrounding the supreme chief. This statement was made by the Popular Organization Assemblage for National Struggle [ROPRL]. In Haiti's case, says ROPRL, though Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide's performance over the past three months is not blameworthy, one notices a hesitation to touch certain social sores. Despite his willingness to purge public ministries and firms of what political organizations call excess, these groups continue to address the same questions to the executive: What about de-macoutization? When will there be an efficient investigation conducted by the Justice Department? That is the question asked by ROPRL. A simple press release, distributed throughout the media, reminds the 16 December winner of his commitment to the masses. The apprehension of the Haitian political class expresses itself slowly but surely. The thirst for justice halfway slaked, anxiety from unfinished "de-macoutization" was the impetus for this peaceful demonstration scheduled for 17 May in the area surrounding Saint-Jean-Bosco. [passage omitted].

Another concern of the Popular Organizations Assemblage for National Struggle [ROPLN] is the importance of the literacy process at the national level, an initiative that is on its list of priorities. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Reporter Marcus, live in the street] Many young people are marching peacefully toward the National Palace, carrying posters listing the names of those who should be expelled from government. The demonstration was well organized to avoid mishaps. Police were standing by.

Jamaica

Strike Closes Down Financial Sector

FL2005171691 Bridgetown CANA in English 1651 GMT 20 May 91

[Report by Julie Chen]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 20, CANA—Jamaica's financial sector ground to a halt on Monday as employees began an indefinite strike to protest a tax on concessionary loans. The workers voted last Friday to take strike action following the finance minister's announcement two weeks ago that concessionary loans enjoyed by employees of financial institutions would be taxed to help plug a 454 million-dollar (one J dollar = 12.5 U.S. cents) hole in the budget.

The strike affects commercial banks, the (Central) Bank of Jamaica, building societies, and insurance companies. In the financial district of New Kingston, workers in insurance companies carried placards and appealed to passing motorists to support them as they picketed outside their offices. One placard read "please don't take my home from me and my four children."

Many banks posted notices saying they were closed due to "circumstances beyond our control." The shut-down in the financial sector takes place despite a warning from Finance Minister P.J. Patterson that he would not negotiate with the workers while they were on strike.

In a weekend statement, Patterson pointed out that the tax was not a new provision. "It is merely enforcing existing provisions of the income tax law," he declared. He emphasised that the measure was to become effective January 1, 1992 and "there is now ample time available for a resolution."

Employees in the financial sector as part of their wage package receive loans at between 3 and 13 per cent. According to a union spokesman, the proposed tax would increase mortgage interest payments by 100 to 300 per cent.

A meeting is to be held later today to decide what further action the workers will take if the government refuses to yield to their demands.

St. Kitts and Nevis

Simmonds Urges 'Intensified Efforts' on Funds'

FL2005221891 Bridgetown CANA in English 2019 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, May 20, CANA—The St. Kitts and Nevis Development Bank has marked its tenth year of operation, with Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds urging intensified efforts to mobilise funds for project financing.

Simmonds said the task of Development Banks is made more urgent by effects of recession in the developed world, the trend towards massive trading blocs, the inflationary impact of international conflicts, diversion of capital to Eastern Europe, and the devastation of natural disasters such as hurricanes.

"(These) have all combined to make the process of economic development in small states even more complex and

challenging," Simmonds said in a weekend address to the nation on the anniversary of the Bank's founding.

Simmonds said the state-owned institution has made exceptional contributions by lending to citizens from all walks of life for home building and improvement, educational and career purposes, and establishment of businesses. These activities have increased employment, generated foreign exchange, and generally enhanced economic growth, he said.

Simmonds said the achievements were particularly heartening to his government because when it assumed office in 1980, it found a loss-making and virtually inoperative Development and Finance Corporation (DFC), which had to be wound up.

El Salvador

State, Municipal Workers Create New Organization

PA2005191791 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Several labor organizations today announced the creation of the National Union of State and Municipal Workers' Associations and Labor Unions, UNASTEM. During a news conference, one of the founders said that the new organization's goals are to seek the unification of all the national labor unions and associations and to consolidate the people's movement. It was asserted that a series of activities will be launched in the near future to tell the people about the organization's goals. Sixteen labor groups today united to protest the privatization plan being carried out by the government on certain state and autonomous agencies. UNASTEM leaders will demand the Legislative Assembly's participation in deciding the fate of the workers in the agencies affected by the privatization plan. [recorded passage indistinct]

Rebels Endorse Land Seizures, Workers' Demands

PA2005174491 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] We feel optimistic and we support the peasants' struggle, because the people are implementing their own agrarian reform. Forty farms have been taken over throughout the country on instructions from peasant organizations. The last takeover was carried out at the Tinajera Farm in Canton El Golfo, San Juan Nonualco jurisdiction, La Paz Department. The land takeovers that peasants have implemented in recent days are the result of the government's refusal to implement true agrarian reform that benefits the peasants.

The peasants argue that there are thousands on thousands of Salvadorans [6-second break in reception] and request that the farms be assigned to the cooperatives. The minister's reply was negative; he argued that the land is being cultivated by the state. The peasants have stated that the land takeovers will continue as long as the government refuses to solve their situation and as long as the big landowners—supported by the government and repressive forces—evict them and implement repressive measures.

Several peasants have been injured as a result of the violent evictions, which have failed to achieve results. Members of the Confederation of Agrarian Reform Cooperatives [Concra] said that they endorse the actions.

[Begin Aleman recording] We endorse the actions. The comrades should be able to make the land productive as the government abandoned it in 1985. If the media wants to confirm that the property has been completely abandoned, we are willing to take them there because we know it perfectly well. You will clearly see that the government has idle land while there are thousands of peasants who need the land to render it productive. Furthermore, we want to reveal [words indistinct] documents which prove that it has been implementing measures that economically prevent comrades benefitted from Decree 207 from having access to land. [end recording]

Peasant leader Miguel Aleman said that [words indistinct] large areas of idle land. He also demanded that the government turn over that land to cooperatives; and that constitutional amendments about the agrarian reform (?implementation) be ratified as soon as possible. Organized peasants are implementing their own agrarian reform with the takeover of 40 farms, he said; adding that peasants have the right to choose where they will live and where they will work. The FMLN fully endorses and supports the peasants' actions.

Instead of looking for solutions to all these problems, the government always claims that the workers' labor demands and land takeovers are part of the FMLN strategies. We warn the people that they should not be scared by these accusations; and they should continue to struggle for their just demands. Likewise, they should exert pressure on the government and the Armed Forces so that they take definite steps in the negotiations.

The Central Organization of Salvadoran Workers, CTS, today countered the Legislative Assembly by stating that a consensus should be achieved to attain peace in the country. The Democratic Convergence, UDN [Nationalist Democratic Union], and the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] should achieve an atmosphere of harmony among themselves so that the opposition has only one viewpoint when the constitutional amendments approved by the previous Legislative Assembly are ratified, the CTS leaders said.

In addition, the National Association of Agrarian Workers, ANTA, today said it might sue EL DIARIO DE HOY for slander because the newspaper claims that CTS Finance Secretary Doroteo "Tito" Perez is a member of the FMLN.

[Begin Perez recording] We condemn those false accusations against myself and ANTA. We hold the government, the military high command, Garcia Prieto [not further identified], the [name indistinct] president, and [name indistinct] responsible for anything that may happen to the peasants and active members of the association. [end recording]

He added that this is part of a slanderous plan, the sole purpose of which is to stop the progress achieved by the peasant movement in the country.

FMLN Battle Report for Week 6-12 May

PA2005140391

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 7 May 1991 carries a report saying that "on 5 and 6 May the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] severely damaged the San Antonio Abad electric substation in San Salvador and blew up 31 towers carrying high-tension lines in the Departments of San Salvador, Cuscatlan, and Cabanas, and in the country's west." The

report states further that "on 5 May, the National Army for Democracy [END] attacked treasury police positions in Cerro el Brujo, San Jose Guayabal jurisdiction, Cabanas Department, inflicting four casualties on the enemy, including Corporal Mauricio Ramirez, who was killed." Five more casualties reportedly were inflicted on the 1st Infantry Brigade's San Carlos Battalion on the slopes of Cerro Guazapa.

The same station at 0000 GMT on 8 May carries a military report saying that "for the second consecutive day, there is a great lack of electric energy in the national territory because six 115,000-volt primary lines are out of action." The station goes on to say that "15 casualties were inflicted on Military Detachment 2 as the result of a military operation conducted on 6 May in San Antonio and El Cimarron Norte, Villa Victoria, Cabanas."

San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish at 1447 GMT on 9 May reports that "as the result of an FMLN attack on the 5 November hydroelectric plant in Sensuntepeque before dawn today, four guerrillas and two soldiers were killed and five Military Detachment 2 soldiers were wounded."

(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 1600 on 9 May carries a report saying that "in a clash with a Salvadoran Air Force Special Forces company on 7 May in Zapote and Palo Grande, in the north of Cerro Guazapa, the Special Forces sustained five casualties, including one sublieutenant. A-37 planes dropped 16 bombs on the outskirts of Los Almendros and La Mora, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan Department. At 2100 on the same day, guerrillas inflicted three casualties on the soldiers riding in a 4th Infantry Brigade vehicle. Four towers bearing high-voltage lines and a transformer were blown up. On 8 May, an END unit inflicted three more casualties in Melendez, San Jose Guayabal, Cuscatlan. In all, the Army sustained 13 casualties during these actions."

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish in its 9 May issue on page 98 reports that, according to the Armed Forces Press Committee, "one civilian was shot to death by FMLN members in the presence of his wife and children in El Cerro, Coatepeque, Santa Ana Department."

San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0313 GMT on 10 May reports that "two soldiers and two rebels were killed before dawn today during an FMLN attack on the 5 November dam between Cabanas and Chalatenango, using RPG-7 rocket launchers. The installations were slightly damaged."

(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 10 May says that "a regional maneuver in Chalatenango left 38 Army casualties. An attack on the 5 November dam damaged two transformers. In addition, Military Detachment 2 in charge of protecting the dam sustained 21 casualties, including two lieutenants." The report continues by saying that "the END inflicted 15 casualties on the Lenca Battalion in the area of Cerro Jalacate between Cacaopera and Corinto on 8 May." In addition, the END "recovered one M-16 rifle, two 90-mm shells, three knapsacks, 1,500 5.56-mm rounds of ammunition, and an M-60 ammunition belt with 200 cartridges. Four soldiers were killed and 11 wounded, including one sergeant." The broadcast also said that "six towers were blown up in La Libertad, near Ilobasco and Sensuntepeque."

San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 10 May reports that, "according to an official source, the guerrillas blew up six towers bearing high-voltage lines in various areas of the country's north." The station says the FMLN reported "inflicting 32 casualties in clashes and attacks on military positions on 9 May. In addition, 11 soldiers were wounded in clashes in Chalatenango yesterday."

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish at 0000 GMT on 13 May reports that "a clash with the 6th Infantry Brigade started at 0830 on 11 May in La Bomba and Moropala, Concepcion Batres, Usulutan Department. As a result of this fighting, 40 casualties were inflicted on the enemy, broken down as follows: 13 prisoners of war, eight dead, and 19 wounded. The battalion was disabled as a fighting unit. Also, we seized the following war material: 15 M-16 rifles, 50 M-16 ammunition clips, a PRC-77 military radio communications set, five 81-mm mortar shells, 4,000 5.56-mm cartridges, five M-60 ammunition belts, eight M-79 grenades, two hand grenades, and 19 U.S.-made knapsacks, as well as boots and uniforms." The report also states that "a 1st Infantry Brigade sublieutenant was killed by an antipersonnel mine in La Cruz, San Jose Guayabal, Cuscatlan Department. Three soldiers of the Soriano Battalion were wounded by antipersonnel mines. Two soldiers of Atlacatl Battalion were killed and one wounded as the result of an END attack on 10 May in La Mora, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan."

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 11 May reports that "13 Atlacatl Battalion soldiers were seriously wounded on 9 May in Platanares, Aguacayo, and Hacienda Itatal, Suchitoto jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department, during a clash with the END and as the result of walking on antipersonnel mines. On 9 May, three soldiers were killed and three wounded during an attack on San Carlos Battalion. The same day, END troops ambushed a truck with troops in El Amatillo, killing three soldiers and wounding three. Two towers bearing high-tension cables were blown up in El Progreso, Santa Ana, on 9 May, damaging the 115,000-volt line between Lesalamo and Opico. On the same day, END forces blew up two towers and four posts in Zapotican, Ciudad Arce, La Libertad."

Guatemala

EGP, FAR Guerrillas Surrender to Army

PA2005145691 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 16 May 91 p 8

[Report by Raul Meono Rodriguez]

[Text] Tecpan Guatemala, Chimaltenango—Two minors wearing olive green uniforms, and 65 women and

men in civilian clothes, turned themselves in to the Army after testifying that they collaborated with the clandestine groups Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP) and Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) as couriers, food suppliers, combatants, and informers.

The 67 rebel disidents were presented to the national press on 15 May at the Canton Xecoxol, 23 km from Tecpan, Chimaltenango.

The rebels, including men, women, and two 15- and 16-year-old minors, told reporters that they came from cantons called Xepac, Quizaya, and Coquixajay.

Canton Xecoxol is located in a mountainous area. At the time the rebels were presented to the press, it started to rain, and guerrillas, soldiers, and journalists had to seek shelter in a school and a nearby building to discuss the rebels' surrender.

An Army lieutenant presented to the journalists the 67 rebel deserters who were standing in front of weapons they voluntarily turned in and others confiscated by the Army from clandestine hideouts.

Along with the rebels, the Army presented the following war materiels: 1 M-16 rifle, 3 .22-caliber carbines, 1 .22-caliber rifle, 1 shotgun, 2 grenades, 3 claymore mines, 50 detonators, 3 booby traps, 6 moulds for Claymore mines, subversive propaganda with the Che Guevara effigy, and 1 television set.

A 15-year-old girl, whose name we have omitted due to her age, introduced herself as "Martina" and told reporters that for nine months she was actively involved with a subversive group.

"I turned myself in because I was hungry. I went without food for four straight days. Then there was a clash last week with the Army in Pacojal, where four of my comrades died," she said.

"Martina" wore an olive green uniform and brown commando boots. Her face had white scale markings that denoted exposure to cold and heat. She did not mention taking part in other clashes, but said that other relatives are involved with the guerrillas and she believes that they should turn themselves in the way she did.

The other minor who turned himself in is nicknamed "Luis." He is 15 years old and was dressed like Martina. I have been with the guerrillas for 4 years, he said with a firm voice.

In all this time I have not seen my family, the minor stated. They must think I am dead because when the guerrillas took me away I was 11 years old and I told my parents that I was going to Mexico, Luis continued.

He claimed he took part in many harassment operations against military camps in several parts of the country. He was active in Peten Department and on the south coast.

Luis claimed that when he was taken away he was offered 500 quetzales a month and training in Nicaragua and Cuba to become a guerrilla commander and fight for his people. "They transferred me to Mexico and then they interned me in Peten Department. I never again saw my family," he said.

"I always asked that I be permitted to write my family, but it was denied. I was desperate. So when Martina and I left on our own, we went without food for four days and decided to turn ourselves in to the military," Luis concluded.

Most of the other FAR and EGP collaborators, Luis said, served as couriers or sporadic combatants on various occasions. All of them were peasants that asked that they be left alone to work for their families' well-being.

Nicaragua

FMLN's Handal Rules Out Cease-Fire by 31 May

PA2105043991 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0306 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Managua, 20 May (EFE)—Today in Managua the Salvadoran Farabundo Marti National Liberatio Front (FMLN) ruled out reaching a cease-fire with the Army in the next few days because it is a "complex" matter after a decade of war.

FMLN commander Jorge Shafik Handal said that ending hostilities in his country is a "complex" matter that will depend on the advancement of national concerted efforts.

Handal is heading an FMLN delegation that is meeting in Managua with representatives from 84 Salvadoran labor and social organizations who have presented a proposal on the "minimum conditions" for a cease-fire.

"The cease-fire has to do with the social and military situation in El Salvador. It is not merely deciding when to stop the shooting or where one side or the other will be," Handal said.

"We have not offered a cease-fire by 31 May, that is not true. This is something that has been distorted," he stressed.

Handal said that if simultaneous negotiations on constitutional amendments and the transformation of the Armed Forces had been held, "there was a possibility that the discussion on both subjects could end by the last day of May."

"That is what we said, but since then everything has been misinterpreted," Handal added, stressing that the guerrillas have not abandoned the other topics on the prospects for the dissolution of the Army and the cease fire, in addition to the constitutional amendments, on which some progress has already been made.

The delegation of the Salvadoran guerrillas is meeting at a hotel in Managua with representatives from the Permanent Committee for the National Debate, the National Peasant-Worker Unity (UNOC), and the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS). FMLN representatives are expected to meet tomorrow in Managua with delegates from all the Salvadoran political parties.

Nicaraguan Minister of the Presidency, Antonio Lacayo, who was received during a recess of the meeting, reaffirmed his government's willingness to cooperate with meetings, which are aimed at attaining peace in El Salvador.

Commission Official on Armed Groups' Acts, Goals

PA2005140291 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] Disarmed, repatriated, and crippled former contras have armed themselves, but they do not represent a threat nor will they comprise a military unit in the country's northern region, Engineer Luis Enrique Figueroa, president of the Human Rights and Peace Commission, stated to several ambassadors. The contras' personal attitudes are a measure aimed at exerting pressure on the government to fulfill demands made throughout the past year for housing, farming tools, and financing.

[Begin Figueroa recording] There are armed groups in the country and they have been carrying out certain actions to exert pressure on the government to meet their needs. The groups have not carried out military actions nor do they have plans to renew military actions [words indistinct].

We have been able to ascertain that these armed groups include repatriated contras, demobilized Army members, and militiamen who were organized in several defense groups throughout the countryside. The common denominator of all these groups is their demand to solve material problems.

We were even able to ascertain that these groups also include many Nicaraguans who illegally returned to the country through unguarded border areas. They are not included in the refugee organizations' figures or [words indistinct] organizations, but they also have critical economic needs.

Contacts were established with them [words indistinct] in different places and they said that they do not intend to carry out armed action. Instead their main demand is that they be given support in obtaining land for those who have none and fertilizers and tools for those who have land. Generally speaking, they [words indistinct] because—I emphasize this again—these are their most essential economic and material needs.

We, meaning the Commission's members, have consulted the Army and its representatives and are able to confirm that they fully endorse the government's—and the commission's—views, meaning that the solution to this problem is not of a military nature. A political, economic, social, and material solution is necessary.

Consequently, cooperative-type military units have been organized to face the situation and every possible political effort is being exerted to prevent this type of action, because any isolated action could unleash a large-scale military reaction. This is not what other democratic governments want and the armed groups do not want to provoke this type of situation. [end recording]

Sobalvarro Comments

PA2005174691 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 May 91 p 3

[Report by y Roger Suarez M. from LA PRENSA staff]

[Text] The government must be careful when dealing with the situation created by armed groups in the northern part of the country because the Sandinists are causing great confusion so that inappropriate repressive measures are taken, and this could lead to a new war in the area, Oscar Sobalvarro, deputy director of the Nicaragua Institute for Repatriation, has said.

During the last few days, the pro-Sandinist media have reported that these groups are receiving arms and supplies from Honduras by air.

"I do not believe that this supply from the air has been coming in. I am confident that the Hondurans would not allow this to happen," stated Sobalvarro, who was one of the top "contra" leaders during the recent war. Sobalvarro now says "that no one in Central America would support the return of war to the region."

Citing army reports, some media reported last week that these groups had harassed army troops on the San Jose de Bocay-Ayapal road in Matagalpa Department.

Oscar Sobalvarro said that he has asked people who come from that area about this and everything indicates that there has been no harassment, much less clashes, between these armed groups and Army troops.

Santiago Murray, a CIAV-OAS [International Commission of Support and Verification] representative in Nicaragua, said that the CIAV-OAS had confirmed reports about the presence of these armed groups in the northern part of the country, "although these groups have not hindered our duties."

The members of these groups argue that they have armed themselves for protection against the hostility of police and Sandinist followers, who are constantly threatening them. "What really worries us is the possibility that clashes may break out," Murray added.

Meanwhile, Oscar Sobalvarro said that although he has not had direct contacts with these armed people, "they have told the peasants in the area that they are not planning to begin any action or attack against the army."

Sobalvarro said: "I think that the Sandinists and Humberto Ortega are trying to blow out of proportion the presence of these armed groups. They have even

invented the story about the arms shipment from Honduras to justify the crimes and repression that have been committed against the demobilized contras."

Sobalvarro said that those persons armed themselves, claiming the government has not kept its agreements and that they fear for their personal safety because of the constant threats by Sandinists.

He said policemen and soldiers in the northern region behave like true Sandinist cadres, repressing and even killing former contras, as happened to the former fighter known as "Chapulin."

Highly reliable sources told LA PRENSA that some of the persons who are armed in the north sent a letter to President Violeta Chamorro explaining why they had decided to arm themselves.

Oscar Sobalvarro said that at a meeting with President Chamorro he told her that those policemen and soldiers who do not behave in a professional manner and who harass the former Nicaraguan Resistance members had to be removed from the strife-torn areas.

President Chamorro on that occasion ordered Government Minister Carlos Hurtado to remove from the region those policemen who do not behave professionally in their relations with the contras. However, everything seems to indicate that Hurtado is having a hard time removing Sandinist policemen from their posts.

The military presence remains strong in places with large concentrations of demobilized fighters. On 25 April, the Army encircled the towns of Rio Blanco and Rancho Grande, Matagalpa Department, where the former rebels and the public at large had met to celebrate Mrs. Chamorro's first year in office.

The area residents felt an army attack was imminent because of this operation. "I do not understand why the 'piri' (soldiers) head for the mountains as if we were going to fight. We are participating in a civic ceremony," a former rebel told a LA PRENSA reporter who visited Rancho Grande on that occasion. Trying to analyze the situation in the north, Sobalvarro said it would be a grave mistake for the Army to try to fight those armed groups, since "the peasants would certainly react in favor of these groups, and the war would resume."

The best thing to do, he said, is to substantially reduce the military presence in the northern region and increase the number of rural policemen, as a step to providing security to the former rebels.

Former RN Members Seek Land

PA2005192091 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 May 91 pp 1, 12

[Report by Pablo Emilio Barreto P.]

[Text] San Jose de Bocay and Ayapal—"The government is starving us to death. It has not kept its promise of giving land to the demobilized Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] members," Simeon Aguirre Torres, aka "Kaliman", stated on 12 May. "Kaliman" presented this complaint to Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo and top-level government officials at Ayapal during the innaguration of a 43-km highway constructed by the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] between San Jose de Bocay and Ayapal.

The ministers and former contra commander Israel Galeano, aka "Franklin", gave the demobilized RN members 1,000 quintals of improved seedcorn and the same amount each of machetes, axes, sharpening files, pairs of boots, and kerosene lamps.

"Kaliman" complained that Oscar Sobalvarro, aka "Ruben", had not accounted for the $180,000 that the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification] had allegedly given him for the demobilized troops in the northern part of the country, or for the fleet of new cars that the United States had offered them in exchange for the surface-to-air missiles they returned.

"The rumors in Managua that we are rearming ourselves and going into the mountains are false. As you can see, we are in this mountain region unarmed and peaceful," Jose Benito Bravo, aka "Max," said in support of "Kaliman's" statements.

"The 3,000 men who used to be under my command are wandering around without even a place to live, while leaders like 'Ruben' are going around with the rich bourgeoisie of Managua," "Kaliman" said.

"Kaliman" did not say why or when "Ruben" received the alleged $180,000, but he did say that CIAV officials squander the money that is assigned by the OAS to resolve the problems of the demobilized and use it to "party" in restaurants and hotels.

He confirmed that his former subordinates work with the UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen], and that the demobilized RN members, the repatriated Nicaraguans, the former EPS members, and many peasants who are not in cooperatives suffer the problem of unequal land distribution.

A few minutes before "Kaliman" made these statements, Agrarian Reform Director Gustavo Tablada had stated that the government "was keeping its promise of giving 340,000 manzanas to the demobilized RN members. This is especially true in Region Five, where the government has already distributed 160,000 manzanas and estimates that this land will yield a crop of 425,000 quintals of basic grains."

"Kaliman" stated that several RN groups in Region Four have seized 33 private properties, and "we will not give these back until the government gives us concrete answers in regard to our land demands. They promised to give us land within a stipulated period of time."

"Kaliman" told of Raul Rivera and Fausto Zamora, who each own 2,000 manzanas of land while, "Max" said,

"We do not have an inch of land to plant. The government should expropriate these properties to solve our problem, and compensate the owners accordingly."

"There are many large estate owners, such as the ones I have mentioned, in the north, but the government does not take action to solve the situation. Meanwhile, people are saying that we are rearming and that we are having problems with the Army, and this is false. I live peacefully and alone. The groups that are rumored to be armed are surely assailants," "Kaliman" asserted.

Lieutenant Colonel Rodrigo Gonzalez reported that there is no evidence that the group of approximately 60 men moving in the northern Bocay area are RN members.

"Kaliman" and "Max" headed a large group of men—all peasants—who demanded to talk to Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, who was forced to meet with them in an EPS hut in Bocay. However, the reporters were kept away so that we would not hear or see anything.

"We do not have food. We are giving you tools to work with and improved seeds for production," said Antonio Lacayo when he handed out the donations in front of a San Jose de Bocay warehouse.

In Ayapal, Minister Lacayo—standing on one of the construction trucks at the site where the EPS road ends—urged the peasants to make the land yield and to work to make their area a municipality.

Demobilized RN members Juan Maria Espinoza Rodriguez and Nazario Gonzalez asked the minister about the land, but Lacayo told them again that the RN had abandoned the original "development centers" and now they wanted land in Managua, Leon, Chinandega, Masaya, Granada, and Rivas, "which was not included in the initial demands. Thus, we are now trying to see how we can solve this situation."

Agrarian Reform Director Gustavo Tablada stated that the next EPS assignment will be to "remove the mines" in northern Chinandega "to be able to plant in this area without any problems."

Minister Lacayo stressed that the work done by the EPS in times of peace has been praiseworthy, and he called on the Sandinists, demobilized RN members, and peasants to abandon their differences and give all their attention to production. He called on them to go forward and forget about getting revenge on personal enemies, as this will lead them nowhere.

PDC Draft Land Bill Needed

PA2005195291 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1815 GMT 14 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] A draft bill submitted by National Conservative Party [PNC] representatives at the National Assembly has caused concern among the Sandinists. The bill seeks to regulate the scope of and limit the abuses perpetrated under Laws 85 and 86 by repealing them. The racket that the Sandinists have tried to make about the presentation is completely unjustified. First, because the National Assembly deputies are there to do precisely that: to make laws. Second, because the objectives pursued by these drafts are different from the opposite propaganda that the Sandinists have spread.

The PNC political leaders have widely explained that the problem of private property is one of the most, if not the single most, delicate and urgent problems being discussed in our society. As such, it is the Sandinists' duty to contribute to the resolution of this draft bill.

The PNC leaders have stated two main issues: First, that they are not trying to return property to the Somoza family or their relatives, who were responsible for the great national tragedy that Nicaraguans experienced during the 1960s; second, their draft bill is just a working-copy, an idea for a solution to which other ideas must be added and from where the truth—which is nothing more than doing justice—must rise.

They have no intentions of stripping the land from legally established economically productive farm cooperatives, nor do they seek to evict the poor, who have in some ways benefitted from Laws 85 and 86 with their small property. On the contrary, the PNC's draft bill would give much needed stability to those ownership deeds that now exist in juridical instability.

Of course, not even the Sandinist leaders want to favor those who participated in the pinata-like giveaway, that is, those who mercilessly took advantage and kept the people's property; those who illegally and immorally took over mansions, ranches, factories, whole radio stations, vehicles, and so on: basically thieves and looters. The Sandinists are, instead, calling out for legislation to prevent the stolen property from being lost.

The Sandinists are getting ready for their party convention in July. We all know of their existing divisions caused by the handling of relations with the government, which has divided them into fundamentalists—equivalent to those within the UNO [National Opposition Unity] who support confrontation—and pragmatists, that is, those who support President Violeta Chamorro and her national reconciliation policy. In addition to that struggle, there now is a struggle between those who participated in the pinata-like giveaway and the honest people. It is a struggle between those who stole a piece of the pie and scuttled the revolutionary morality forever, and those honest ones who touched nothing and feel they have been harmed forever by their fellow party members' conduct.

All of this will be discussed within the internal CEN [National Executive Council] in July and there is sure to be a big battle. What, then, could be more convenient than to take advantage of this moderate and rational draft bill presented by the PNC deputies. After the necessary reforms have been made, a law may result

which will do justice to the people who suffered confiscation and to the new owners, by giving back or duly compensating those whose properties were unjustly taken, and granting the new owners legal ownership for their property, which they do not yet have.

The National Assembly members, who unanimously approved the creation of a study commission on private property problems in Nicaragua, must now accept the draft bill and pass it on for study and analysis by that commission, because it is comprised by the best brains in the legislative branch.

We must insist that the Sandinist members not leave the commission's meetings, but rather participate in them with a serene attitude, thus contributing to the national stability which is urgently needed in our country.

Panama

Monsignor Brown Replies to Endara Remarks

PA2005163691 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 20 May 91 p 1

[Text] Monsignor Oscar Brown has described President Guillermo Endara's remarks against the Panamanian Catholic Church as "rash and unfair."

"We do not regard ourselves as anyone's opposition. We are in favor of the Gospel and mankind, particularly the poorest people," Msgr. Brown said. He pointed out that Endara reacted spontaneously and hastily after reading something in the Catholic weekly.

"President Endara said that the Catholic Church is a liar. These are very strong words," Brown remarked. Very concerned, Brown said that PANORAMA CATOLICO is intended to serve as an auxiliary instrument of the church's evangelistic effort.

Brown added: It is not true that the church's main purpose is to sell the publication and that for this reason we resort to lying. "PANORAMA CATOLICO is a non-profit, non-commercial publication," he explained.

Finally, Brown recommended that President Endara refrain from making hasty remarks about PANORAMA CATOLICO and that he should read it as it is: a serious, honest medium, which always identifies its sources.

Associations Comment on Ford's Economic Program

PA2005191591 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 May 91 p 1A

[Text] Some Panamanians received with optimism the new economic plan presented by Planning and Economy Minister Guillermo Ford. Others received it with skepticism, and several described it as a "declaration of war" against the people.

The plan contemplates economic liberalization, enterprise privatization, greater export production, job creation, the retention of thousands of government employees, and Panama's pledge concerning the payment of its debts with international credit organizations.

According to Ford, Panama can simply look forward to "a great future" with this economic program.

Nevertheless, he warned that if measures are not adopted to normalize relations with other countries, and if the government fails to pay debts inherited from the military regime, Panama would seemingly live in peace for a few years, but "incredibly negative" effects would be felt in the long run.

Also, the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture [CCIA] yesterday gave its support to the Strategy Plan for Modernization of the Panamanian Economy presented by Ford on 16 May in a national radio and television address.

CCIA President Ricardo Aleman said that his sector believes in opening the market, reducing tariffs, and amending the Social Security Board's Organization Law. The latter is especially important because the institution's reorganization is necessary for its survival, he continued.

He also said that the CCIA supports the budget reforms, believes 100 percent in the state enterprises' privatization, and is satisfied to know that Intel [National Institute of Telecomunications] is now included on the privatization list.

Aleman said that the CCIA agrees that Panama must reach payment agreements with International Financial Institutions (IFI's). CCIA members will strive to see that these agreements are quickly approved, so that the country may again be eligible for credits.

Aleman reported that CCIA members will meet with Ford and a large number of Panamanian businessmen on 20 May to hear details of the plan for the country's economic modernization.

Furthermore, CCIA Vice President Guillermo Fernandez said that the government's economic program "is the best we have achieved."

"Vice President Ford has conducted a great negotiation," so everyone must support the government "for the country's sake."

Meanwhile, Mario Jaramillo, president of the Panamanian Association of Business Executives (APEDE), said that without an overall plan it is useless to say isolated things, which "really do not show where we are going."

"There are things that are so essential for the country's development, such as the modernization of the labor code, the reverted [Canal Zone] areas, and environmental issues, all of which are important for Panama's development in the medium and long term. They have not been discussed," Jaramillo said.

Milton Henriquez, legislator from the opposition Christian Democratic Party [PDC], said that Ford's economic plan has "serious flaws" because it lacks a social compensation program and industrial modernization.

"We do not think that Ford actually believes 100 percent of what he is saying because we feel the government's economic team does not understand the duties it must carry out. It has dealt with the problem as though it were a matter of searching for fresh money to prop up public finances," Henriquez said.

PDC Legislator Guillermo Cochez said the economic plan does not mention the adjustments that will be made in the area of government "employment" when a government institution, with a certain number of employees, is privatized with a different number of employees, and "that is when the dismissals will be made, those which Ford says will not take place."

Balbina Herrera, from the opposition PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], said the party will fight the economic program because, according to her, it does not represent a concrete solution to the people's problems.

"How are we going to pay financial institutions if they do not tell us what they are going to give us in return?" Herrera asked.

She said the people know the PRD's position with regard to the pressures from the IFI's. "We have been condemning the dismissals of 18,000 government employees and the privatization of some government institutions," she added.

Rolando Miller, secretary general of the Intel labor union, went even further when he said the economic measures announced by Ford sounded like "a declaration of war on the Panamanian people."

Miller said, last night Ford sounded like "a big salesman of the country's assets." But, he said, the Panamanian people will oppose the measures. "We definitely reject Intel becoming a mixed enterprise," the labor leader said.

Miller noted that top government leaders promised that profitable state enterprises will not be privatized but today, and in view of this weakness before international credit organizations, they want to turn Intel into a mixed enterprise.

Argentina

Taiwanese Fishing Vessel Seized, Fined

PY2005192091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1739 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 May (NA)—The Argentine Naval Prefecture has fined the pirate fishing boat Long Wei No. 855 $600,000, which was flying the Taiwanese flag, and seized its catch of 60 tons of squid.

The boat will be released upon payment of the fine that was applied in keeping with the terms of Law 17500 (National Fishing Law).

The Long Wei is being held at Puerto Deseado. It was captured by the coast guard vessel Prefecto Derbes on 15 March when the Taiwanese boat was caught illegally fishing 195 nautical miles off the Pinguino Island lighthouse, in the southern part of the Santa Cruz township.

The fishing vessel tried to leave the economic exclusive zone but the Prefecto Derbes ordered it to stop. The fishing vessel refused and the crewmen of the Prefecto Derbes fired warning shots and again ordered the vessel to stop. The fishing vessel continued to disobey the order and so the Prefecto Derbes began shelling the Long Wei, which finally stopped.

Cavallo Announces Results of Talks in Brazil

PY2005151091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0050 GMT 19 May 91

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 18 May (NA)—Today, Brazil and Argentina agreed that officials of the two governments should hold "regular meetings" to guarantee "that the commitments that were formalized within the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) will be implemented" and that Mercosur members "will not accept offers at subsidized prices from third countries."

Juan Schiaretti, under secretary of industry and commerce; and (Marcelo Regunaga), under secretary of agriculture, livestock and fishing; will meet next week with Antonio Cabrera, the Brazilian minister of agriculture and Dorothea Werneck, the Brazilian national economy secretary "to analyze the wheat issue and to guarantee an adequate supply" of wheat for both countries.

This decision was announced by Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo upon returning from Brazil, where he met with his counterpart Marcilio Marques Moreira. [passage omitted]

Cavallo said that during his meeting with Marques Moreira "progress was made in several areas dealing with the coordination of policies within Mercosur."

He mentioned bilateral agreements on "tariffs on various key products for the industrial sector and the implementation of joint work methods."

The minister added: "Matters about which Argentina has been recently concerned, like the sale of subsidized wheat to Brazil—in competition with Argentine products—were also addressed."

The two ministers met today in Brazil for some four hours during which they analyzed the situation caused by a U.S. offer to sell 700,000 tons of wheat to Brazil, with a subsidy of approximately 30 percent, on which Brazilian authorities have not yet adopted an official position. [passage omitted]

Government Diversion of Funds Criticized

PY2005221291 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 May 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Robbing Peter To Pay Paul"]

[Text] After pension funds have been systematically rifled by successive governments for the last few decades, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo apparently believes that two wrongs can make a right because he is now virtually proposing a misappropriation on behalf of the pensioners rather than to their detriment—namely the idea of diverting the five percent of employers contributions to the FONAVI National Housing Fund in order to boost pension funds while compensating FONAVI with 45 percent of fuel taxation. Since this fuel levy (together with taxation on telephones) was originally supposed to go to teachers, who received a substantial pay hike in March anyway, one wonders who ultimately foots the bill in this complicated exercise of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

This manoeuvre is typical of Cavallo's often bulldozer approach in a bid to achieve a lightning solution to the country's major problems—we have already seen the minister seeking to banish the fiscal deficit and establish a stable currency almost overnight, not without success. It is also typical of an occasional weakness under pressure which we have also already seen in the form of a certain amount of ministerial shilly-shallying over the issue of highway tolls. Given the increasing ferocity of the pensioners' protests around the Central Courthouse, could it be that Cavallo's haste is conditioned by his sensitivity to grey panther pressure—on May 6, before the pressure of the protesting pensioners built up, Social Security Undersecretary Walter Schulthess announced that there would be no privatization or any other reform of the pension system for the next six months, leaving pensioners stuck on a miserly pittance of 1.2M australs (some end up collecting a mere 700,000) yet suddenly the government is hunting for rapid solutions.

The attempt to appease pensioners with FONAVI funds is not the first exercise of this kind since last week a solution to the Acindar steel plant dispute seemed to have been achieved on the basis of subsidizing the laid-off workers with money from CASFPI (the family subsidies for industrial personnel fund). The obvious danger of this strategy of shifting around funds is moving out of the frying-pan into the fire. Thus while the pensioners' plight is acute, the country's housing

shortage of some three million units is so serious that a high proportion of the disappointingly few questions asked in Wednesday's [15 May] census were about the citizenry's dwellings. Yet for all the misgivings and for all the importance of housing, any attempt to find the funds to give the elderly the retirement they deserve can only be applauded. The old might seem to belong to the past but the treatment they receive inevitably colours everybody else's view of their future.

Results of Political Party Primaries Reported

PY2005220091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 20 May 91 p 1

[Excerpt] (DYN-NA)—Cordoba Governor Eduardo Angeloz won Radical Party (UCR) provincial primaries for a third consecutive term yesterday and former Senator Fernando de la Rua was on his way to a Federal Capital victory for party authorities, while Jorge Escobar and Oscar Parrilli won Justicialist Party gubernatorial primaries in San Juan and Neuquen and the Humberto Roggero-Cesar Albrisi ticket was chosen to run against Angeloz and Eduardo Grosso in Cordoba. [passage omitted]

Nuclear Plant To Be Operational by 'Late 1994'

PY2105001691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1850 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 May (TELAM)—With the agreement on the recent loans between Argentina and Germany—part of the 200 million francs [as received] has already begun to arrive—82 percent of work on the Atucha-2 nuclear power plant will be completed by late 1992. At this moment, 60 percent of the work has been completed and the plant will be operational by late 1994.

The heavy water plant in Arroyito, Neuquen Province, will begin to produce heavy water by late 1992 and it is estimated that, after the Atucha-2 plant becomes operational, the Arroyito plant will have enough heavy water stored for operation of the Atucha-2 plant.

What should be done with the nuclear waste is an issue that has always been viewed as a problem by the champions of nuclear power as a source for electrical energy. CNEA [National Commission for Atomic Energy] President Manuel Mondino recalled that the ecological organization Greenpeace is opposed to construction of a nuclear waste dump in Patagonia.

Mondino admitted that "at this moment," the CNEA is "not" considering construction of such a site. He added: "Nevertheless, we must be prepared and we are in a position to handle small quantities of nuclear waste." Mondino emphasized: "The chemical waste thrown into rivers is much more contaminative."

* Prospects for Cavallo's Economic Plan Assessed

91SM0289B Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Apr 91 p 1

[Report by Roberto Horacio Cachanosky]

[Text] The population's reaction to the Cavallo Plan II has been characterized by optimism, cautious optimism, and doubts tending toward pessimism. In other words, there is no uniform opinion on the plan. But just like when the Austral Plan was launched, once again people are hoping that now we really will be able to make progress.

To try to imagine the economic future that awaits us in the short term, the first thing we must do is distinguish clearly between announcements of measures and actual measures. In this regard, my impression is that when there is great optimism about the plan's future, that optimism is based more on the announcements than on the measures that have actually been adopted. For this reason, I would like to present an assessment of the measures that have been adopted, not those that have been announced but not yet implemented.

Why are the optimists predicting the success of this plan? Their main reason is that in establishing exchange parity by law, the Central Bank can no longer surprise us from one day to the next with a devaluation that ends up liquidating people's savings. Now, if there is more likelihood that the current exchange rate will remain the same, it can be assumed that prices will be more stable. Thus, interest rates come down and credit reappears at a civilized cost.

Moreover, the reappearance of credit for the private sector is genuine, by which I mean that the credit available on the market today is not "credit" provided by printing more money, as were the rediscounts granted to the National Mortgage Bank during the Radical administration. The credit that should appear now is the share of income that is not consumed and that is lent out for consumption and production, given that the state is withdrawing from the domestic market with regard to the demand for savings to finance its spending.

More Activity

This increase in the demand for goods by the population, thanks to the reappearance of credit, will boost economic activity, which in turn will translate into more tax revenues and an improved fiscal situation.

The opening up of the economy should also serve to put the brakes on domestic prices, forcing businesses to respond to the increased demand for prices [as published]. As I was saying earlier, the optimists are speculating that the low utilization of installed productive capacity will allow businesses to respond quickly to the increased demand by increasing the supply, without the need to raise prices.

Finally, the decline in prices that Cavallo is negotiating sector by sector should improve the real exchange rate

without the need to devaluate the austral. These are the reasons for being optimistic.

Now, what are the elements that tend to mitigate this otpimism, even turning it into pessimism in some cases?

In the first place, the matter of the utilization of installed capacity warrants the following clarification. A large number of companies do not have idle capacity; they have made very poor investments and are only "profitable" in a situation characterized by continued subsidies, tax relief, tariff protection, and any other privilege that the reader might imagine.

On the contrary, there are companies that did make good investments at one time, but the government took it upon itself to turn a proper business decision into very bad business. Therefore, I would not base my optimism so much on the "idle" capacity story, because in the final analysis, my instincts tell me that more businesses have managed to survive by wangling privileges rather than taking real business risks.

In the second place, however, the most complicated point is on the fiscal front. Right now, in order to balance its accounts and maintain the conversion plan, in April the Treasury must collect 150 percent of the taxes it collected in March.

And it is difficult to imagine such an increase, even if economic activity picks up substantially.

Therefore, it is not that clear why Cavallo is so optimistic about the Treasury's ability to balance its accounts. Moreover, I get the impression that the BCRA [Central Bank of the Argentine Republic] will very likely have to issue against Bonex [Foreign Bonds] in April to support the Treasury. The question is whether this issue will be absorbed by people as M1, or whether it will be passed on to prices.

To put it in other terms, in order for Cavallo to keep buying time, the demand for australes on current account and in people's pockets will have to keep growing faster than the issuance of currency to finance the Treasury. If this does not happen, prices will not come down, and the exchange rate will lag further behind, with the outcome we are all familiar with by now.

Where do I fit in? Am I an optimist or a pessimist? If I have to predict the short-term result, I am inclined to be pessimistic. If I have to predict the long-term outcome, I include myself among the optimists.

What do I base these two positions on? On the fact that, in my opinion, the fiscal accounts cannot be balanced, and this is not for lack of a little money, but rather because there is a huge gap between spending and real revenues.

But I also justify my optimism by noting that the Argentina of today is very different from the Argentina of five years ago. Today we no longer argue about whether privatization should take place; we are arguing about what is the best way to privatize. Today we do not argue about whether the economy should be opened up; we argue about what is the best way to do it. Today we no longer argue about the need to limit the actions of the Central Bank; we argue about what is the best way to limit them. In my opinion, all of these facts are grounds for being optimistic in the long run.

* Public Sector Workforce Reduced 32 Percent

91SM0289A Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 13 Apr 91 p 16

[Article by Liliana Franco; first paragraph is CLARIN introduction]

[Text] The program to reduce the size of public enterprises will begin with Argentine Railways [FFCC]. As soon as (but not before) the 12,500 telegrams are sent out notifying employees of the layoffs, the World Bank will provide the funds for the severance pay. Then the other firms that are still in the public sector will follow suit. The total reduction will be an estimated 32 percent of the current workforce, equivalent to 82,000 employees out of a total of 254,000. The cost of the cutback is projected at $880 million, which will be offset by a savings of $980 million in wage expenses, according to official figures, once the program is completed. The most costly reduction ($231 million) will take place at the Government Oil Deposits (YPF) due to the number of employees to be laid off and their average salary. The highest average salaries are in the petrochemicals sector.

As soon as the railroad company sends out the 12,500 layoff telegrams, the rationalization program will begin in the public enterprises.

This plan, negotiated with and financed by the World Bank with a credit of $300 million, calls for a total reduction of the workforce amounting to 82,000 employees in 23 public-sector firms (including those in the defense industry). The layoffs are to take place during a period of 12 months at the rate of 2,000 employees per month, except for the first and sixth months, when 16,300 will be let go. These 16,300 employees comprise 12,500 who work for the railroad, 2,500 at the Argentine Shipping Lines (ELMA), 1,300 at the State Shipyards and Naval Factories (AFNE), and 500 at Domecq Garcia Shipyards. The latter company has already discharged 252 employees.

In the sixth month the pattern of 2,000 layoffs a month will be broken, and 10,417 railroad workers and 500 Greater Buenos Aires Electrical Services (SEGBA) employees will be let go. The companies have until March 1993, they say, to lay off an additional 17,500 workers. The lists of those who will receive their pink slips in the first wave are already being drawn up. The criteria are areas with excess personnel, and employees who volunteer to quit.

It is estimated that most of the layoffs will be among administrative personnel. The idea is to begin sending out the telegrams by May at the latest.

Financing

The cost of cutting the current labor force by 32 percent (82,000 out of a total of 254,000) will be $880 million. This total is calculated by figuring severance pay of $10,700 per employee, based on average pay of $630 and average seniority of 18 years.

The high cost of severance pay will be offset, according to official calculations, by the tremendous savings in wages: $980 million by the end of the program.

The largest severance pay outlay, $231 million, corresponds to the YPF, although it is Argentine Railways that will lose the most workers. The reduction of its payroll will cost just over $200 million, despite the greater seniority of its workers. The reason for this is the major difference in the average wage in the two companies.

The average salary at YPF is more than $827 (as of the second half of 1990), while the railway workers earn an average of only half that, $443. Yet the YPF pay scale does not top the list; the petrochemical firms take first place. At Mosconi General Petrochemicals the average salary was $2,090, while at Bahia Blanca Petrochemicals it was $2,450. Slightly lower than that was the pay scale at the Argentine Iron and Steel Joint Association (Somisa), with an average of $1,306.

Although it is true that the World Bank is demanding that the government carry out the first phase (the 12,500 layoffs at Argentine Railways), it is known that once that has been done the funds will be released immediately so that the rationalization program can proceed.

Moreover, if the decision to lay off the railway workers were to be delayed, as of 8 May the government would have to pay a commitment fee of .25 percent in addition to the $300 million.

The pressure is now on the railway "interventor," Edmundo Soria.

Payroll Reductions at Public Enterprises

Firm	Present Payroll	Employees to Be Laid Off (estimate)	Percentage Reduction	Average Pay (in US$)*	Average Seniority Estimated in Years	Total Cost of Severance Pay** (in US$, x 1,000)	Payroll Savings* (in US$, x 1,000)
General Administration of Ports	3,191	2,000	63.0	1,035	18	37,260	30,305
A y EE [expansion not given]	11,462	3,000	26.0	1,138	15	51,210	49,981
ELMA	4,506	2,500	55.0	716	18	32,220	52,411
National Enterprise for Mail & Telegraph	35,991	10,000	28.0	402	18	72,000	59,000
FFCC	87,480	29,000	29.0	443	18	200,000	280,000
State Gas Corporation	10,670	2,000	19.0	401	18	14,436	11,741
North Patagonia Hydroelectric Company	1,691	300	18.0	929	11	3,066	4,080
National Sanitary Works	8,396	3,000	36.0	716	21	45,108	31,447
SEGBA	20,672	5,000	24.0	734	18	66,060	85,071
Government Coal Deposits	3,099	500	16.0	504	10	2,520	3,689
YPF	37,224	20,000	54.0	827	14	230,000	240,000
Totals	224,382	77,300	33.4	713	16.3	753,880	847,725

Note: Overall program calls for a reduction of 82,000 employees.

* Dollar exchange rate of 5,500 australes

** Averages

World Bank Finances If Telegrams Sent

When to begin the rationalization program in the public sector companies is up to the Argentine Railways "interventor," Edmundo Del Valle Soria, because as soon as the 12,500 layoff telegrams begin going out, the World Bank will authorize the disbursement of the money. The $300-million credit arranged with the World Bank will be conditioned on the structural adjustment of the public enterprises. The bank also agreed to lend $23 million for any technical assistance that the companies may need during the rationalization.

At the ceremony where the credit documents were signed last month, Argentine officials termed "very auspicious" the ideas expressed by Peter Bottelier, director of Country Area 4, in his speech. In that speech the official emphasized the privatization of the National Telecommunications Enterprise (Entel), the progress that has been made on the concession of two freight train lines, the creation of an independent rail transport unit, the privatization of YPF, and the deregulation of hydrocarbons.

Bottlier pointed out that "these reforms will have major implications, since they are an integral part of the structural changes that are needed to achieve economic stability in the country." He also predicted that in the not too distant future, freight transportation by rail will be functioning efficiently and on a larger scale, under the direction of private companies.

He also forecast that market forces will bear fruit with the intensification of petroleum and gas prospecting and drilling, and that "private telecommunications companies will be fulfilling their pledge to the country, within the framework of appropriate regulation, to meet the unsatisfied demand of the Argentine public."

Official sources say that after the credit agreement was signed, a major change took place in Argentina's relationship with the World Bank, as the organization had considered Argentina a "problem country." This is why, although they agreed to grant the loan, the disbursement is made on the condition that "we do our duty: first the layoffs, then comes the money."

The overall program presented to the World Bank is designed not only to reduce the payroll (see accompanying article) but also to meet other objectives. In the case of Argentine Railways, the goal is to make progress on the concession contract for the freight lines of all branches and on the formation of metropolitan railroads. According to the World Bank, progress is being made on these two points. What remains to be done is the creation of an independent transit authority to regulate and coordinate integration with auto transport. In addition, the World Bank is convinced that passenger transport by rail should be subsidized. It proposes, however, that this subsidy be pegged at real 1990 values. It is also calling for the acceleration of railway stock sales.

As for hydrocarbons, the bank wants the gas deregulation policy to continue. It also advocates the formation of regional oil and gas policy-making bodies, and it wants the actions that have already been launched or agreed upon to be maintained and continued.

At any rate, Argentina's failure to carry out its agreements with the World Bank in the recent past has prompted the institution to "cover itself" by creating a technical team that will monitor the program's progress.

According to World Bank officials, if Argentina continues to comply with the economic program (the basic goals of which are to deregulate the petroleum industry, rationalize the government, open up the economy, balance the budget, and achieve monetary stability for at least six months), the institution will have an openly positive view.

For example, it is noted that work is accelerating on the programs for two credits, one for financial reform and the other for small and medium companies.

Bolivia

Saavedra on U.S. View of Antidrug Efforts

PY1705211891 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 91

[Excerpt] The U.S. Government recognizes the efforts being made by Bolivia in the struggle against drug trafficking and has praised the results achieved through interdiction and the eradication of coca plantations. Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra pointed out that these statements are expressed in a letter sent by President George Bush to President Jaime Paz Zamora. The letter was delivered by Robert Martinez, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, during his visit to Government House.

Interior Minister Saavedra also referred to Martinez' meeting with members of the Conalid [National Council Against Drug Abuse and Illegal Drug Trafficking] this afternoon. Saavedra said Bob Martinez received a thorough explanation of the plans implemented by the government for interdiction, alternative development, and coca eradication, in addition to programs to prevent drug addiction.

Saavedra said there is satisfaction within the U.S. Government with the achievements made in Bolivia in the struggle against drugs. Martinez reiterated that his government will continue to support Bolivia on economic matters and with advice for the antidrug struggle. Saavedra admitted, however, that the obstacles the country is facing in carrying out the plan against drug trafficking were also considered.

[Begin Saavedra recording] The main obstacle is that the struggle against drug trafficking is always an unequal fight because of the resources available to the drug traffickers, the means they have, the large amount of money they can use to corrupt, [words indistinct]. Fortunately we are in a stage [words indistinct]. Bolivia is a producer of coca; it is not yet a significant producer of cocaine. We hope that it will not become a significant producer of cocaine, and this is the reason for the measures we are taking to directly face [words indistinct]. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Effect of Antidrug Fight on Coca Producers

PY2105034291 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Agriculture, Livestock and Campesino Affairs Minister Mauro Bertero Gutierrez has said that militarization of the antinarcotics struggle will not affect the interests of coca producers. He said that coca producers are not involved in the drug trafficking, but they will be affected by the damage to mankind. He said that the antinarcotics struggle will be carried out in accordance with the law, without affecting the coca producers.

Senate Lifts Measures Against Court Justices

PY1705205691 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 May 91

[Excerpt] Senate President Gonzalo Valda will now explain the decisions made by that legislative body regarding the trial of the Supreme Court justices.

[Begin Valda recording, in progress] ...the resolution (?has been approved) following its proposal by the leaders of the Patriotic Accord blocs. This resolution lifts the precautionary measures against the eight indicted justices. This means that the suspension on the exercise of their duties, as well as the security measures involving their arraignment, have been lifted. This was approved by a vast majority of the national senators, and it represents an important step in the hearings for this impeachment case. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Central Bank Releases 1990 Economic Data

PY2005015891 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 14 May 91 p 8

[Summary] The most recent Bolivian Central Bank [BCB] External Sector Bulletin states that the country had a favorable foreign exchange flow of $40.9 million during 1990. During that year, $1.935 billion entered the country and $1.894 billion left it. The sale of assets and services reached $601.3 million; BCB over-the-counter purchases and bank deposits totaled $374.6 million; transfers totaled $31.7 million; new loan disbursements totaled $357 million; and other income totaled $570 million. The following expenditures were incurred: the purchase of assets and services totaled $1.0724 billion and amortization of the foreign debt, both capital and interest totaled $297.5 million. Other expenditures totaled $524.4 million. Public sector income totaled $1.1032 billion and its expenditures totaled $848 million, while private sector income totaled $832 million and its expenditures totaled $1.046 billion.

Brazil

Economy Minister Installs New Team Members

PY1705220691

[Editorial Report] Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese at 2200 GMT on 16 May carries in a nine-minute segment several reports on the installation of members of the new Brazilian economic team.

Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira is reported to have administered the oath of office to Dorothea Werneck, national economic secretary; Roberto Macedo, economic policy secretary; Francisco Gros, president of the Central Bank of Brazil; Alvaro Mendonca, president of the Federal Savings Bank; and Lafaiete Coutinho, president of the Bank of Brazil.

In statements following the ceremonies, Werneck says that the government will start negotiations next week to put an end to the price freeze, and Macedo urges businessmen to refrain from marking up prices.

The report notes that Minister Marques also installed the following officials: Luiz Antonio Goncalves, executive secretary of the Economy Ministry; Luiz Fernando Wellisch, national finance secretary; Celso Marcos Vieira de Souza, chief of the Economy Ministry staff; and Tercio Sampaio Ferraz, comptroller for national finance.

Government To Seek Deregulation of Prices

PY1705164891 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] The government wants to deregulate gradually prices through negotiations with sectorial organizations. This report was released by newly installed National Economic Secretary Dorothea Werneck. She did not say whether the government intends to abrogate Resolution No. 193, which implemented the price freeze in February. She added that this matter will be discussed next week.

Werneck noted that the Economy Ministry will review all price readjustments agreed on with sectorial organizations, but which have not yet been implemented, as is the case with milk and its by-products, metal products, and electric appliances.

Werneck has promised to announce next week the names of the new directors of the departments of supply and prices, foreign trade, and industry and commerce.

Minister Rules Out Dollarization of Economy

PY2105032891 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 May 91 p 47

[Excerpts] After meeting with his Argentine counterpart Domingo Cavallo and other government officials, Brazilian Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira yesterday ruled out all possibilities of dollarization of the Brazilian economy. Wiston Fritsch, an economy professor at Rio de Janeiro Pontifical Catholic University (PUC-RJ) and a friend of Minister Moreira, also said yesterday that the possibility of promoting dollarization of the economy is not being considered.

The subject, which has become controversial among businessmen, was analyzed yesterday by 15 PUC professors and former professors—among them economy minister aide Pedro Malan—who met in the home of economist Edmar Bacha (a former IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] president) in Leblon. [passage omitted]

Despite his claim that he is not well acquainted with the Brazilian situation to make any suggestions, Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo did not conceal a smile of satisfaction when commenting on the results of the Argentine plan that was set in motion on 1 April. Dollarization was precisely the Argentine plan's measure that had the strongest impact.

He said that inflation—measured by the consumer price index—should reach 2 percent in May and could even be below zero if based on wholesale prices.

In March, before implementation of the plan, inflation reached 11 percent in Argentina, hinting at a new inflationary upsurge. In April, after implementation of the new measures, inflation dropped to 5.5 percent.

President Collor Comments on Visit to Spain

PY2005165691 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] President Fernando Collor de Mello is back in Brazil at the end of a five-day visit to Spain. The Brazilian delegation's final activity was a visit to the city of Sevilla. The president went to the site of the 1992 World's Fair on Cartuja Island, to the Gothic cathedral of the city, and then to the West Indies Archives Company.

The president told journalists that the government is not considering, under any circumstances, the dollarization of the economy like Argentina did, and praised the Brazilian experience.

[Begin Collor recording] We have here clear signs of the success of the economic policy. Our foreign reserves are growing steadily and now stand at $8.5 billion, inflation is around 7 percent, our trade surplus is on the increase, our current internal revenues are registering a surplus, the risk of hyperinflation has been averted, and there are no shortages. In sum, economic activities are warming up and a climate of diminishing tensions prevails. So, we are encouraged to proceed in this course. To put it in a few words, I believe there is not a hint that we should modify our economic policy. [end recording]

Talking about salaries, the president said that the government is making efforts so that workers can experience real gains. He said that it is impossible for the buying power of salaries to increase when inflation is high.

[Begin Collor recording] The only way for salaries to be compatible with the needs and dignity of workers is by having an economy without inflation and with productivity. Productivity is the only guarantee of salary gains for workers. We are seeking this through a no-quarter fight on inflation and through incentives on competitiveness so that industrial efficiency can increase, thereby to better distribute the returns that our industries can offer. [end recording]

The president also talked about politics. He said that he is looking forward to greater rapprochement with Congress. He said that he does not believe that the current campaign in favor of the parliamentary system represents a bet on the failure of his government.

[Begin Collor recording] No, I don't believe it, because it would be unpatriotic and because the economic policy is faring well, with positive signs of vitality. I don't believe that is the intention behind that campaign because it is time for us to stop giving credibility to ghosts and myths about the failure of the democratic process. We have to stop this because we have a mature democracy that, naturally, must be improved and must remain wholesome. [end recording]

President Collor will host today a lunch with political leaders and with the new economic team at the Planalto Palace to discuss the adoption of a new style of government.

PDS [Social Democratic Party] leader Victor Faccionne, PDC [Christian Democratic Party] leader Roberto Siqueira Campos, and PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] leader Gastone Righi have threatened not to attend the lunch to be hosted by the president at the Planalto Palace. They have claimed that they were not consulted on the government's decisions.

Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho has said that there was some confusion when the invitations were extended.

[Begin Passarinho recording] There was a misunderstanding at first, that the invitation was only for the political parties that support the government in Congress. Some parties, that is, most of their members, have not joined the congressional bloc in the Chamber of Deputies. So, when the invitation was presented that way, some of them were reluctant, saying that they were not pro-government. Perhaps it was not well explained that it was not a matter of attending the lunch and applauding. [end recording]

PTB leader Gastone Righi will not be able to participate in the lunch; he has a commitment with Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury.

Spanish Reportage on Visit

WA2005180091

For Spanish coverage of the visit to Spain by President Fernando Collor de Mello, including reports on meetings with the Spanish King Don Juan Carlos and the signing of treaty protocols, see the Spain section of the 17 May issue of the West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Chile

Pinochet Returns to Portugal Following UK Visit

PY2005135891 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] General Augusto Pinochet is back in Portugal following a seven-hour visit to Great Britain where he visited weapons industry installations. While his next destination is as yet unknown, it is almost certain that he is not yet returning to Chile.

According to the Lisbon communications media, Gen. Pinochet did not engage in any public activity today. Yesterday he flew from Lisbon to an airport near London aboard a plane supplied by the Royal Ordnance, a subsidiary of British Aerospace, the British materiel complex which has pending contracts with the Chilean Army.

Gen. Pinochet then traveled by helicopter to the town of Wescott, where the company's main installations are located. Here he was briefed on the development of the lightning rocket [cohete rayo]. There are good prospects of cooperation between that complex and the Famae [Army Ordnance]. The rocket will be tested within the next few months, and there already are some countries interested in purchasing it.

Supreme Court of Justice Elects New President

PY1805190291 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 91

[Excerpt] Justice Enrique Correa Labra was elected president of the Supreme Court of Justice today. He will remain in this post until 1994. He was elected by his peers; there were 12 votes against him, four of which were in favor of Justice Emilio Ulloa. Correa said he will try to keep the judicial branch at the highest possible level. [passage omitted]

Increased Cooperation Urged

PY1905234491 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Chilean President Patricio Aylwin hopes that the appointment of Justice Enrique Correa Labra as Supreme Court president will help effectively improve the administration of justice in Chile, according to Enrique Correa Rios, minister secretary general of government. As for the new Supreme Court president's remarks against any reform of the judicial branch, Minister Correa said the administration hopes the changes will be supported by an overwhelming majority in Congress.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What do you think about the appointment of a new Supreme Court president?

[Correa] Well, the president feels that the appointment of Justice Enrique Correa Labra as Supreme Court president is a just culmination of a meritorious court career. He also hopes that this appointment will enhance cooperation between the administration and the judicial branch in order to improve the administration of justice in Chile. [end recording]

Correa Rios also said that recent opposition criticism of government officials is merely part of the political campaign for the upcoming municipal elections. He added that this means there will be elections and the government's objective of allowing Chileans to elect mayors and city council members will be fulfilled. He said this is a great step forward for the transition to democracy and for Chile as a whole.

Minister Correa concluded by saying that opposition criticism does not imply the end of democratic agreements because the opposition and the administration are playing their respective roles.

Reactions to Ruling on Rettig Report Noted

PY1705235691

[Editorial Report] Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish, in its 17 May newscast at 0000 GMT, carries a variety of reactions by Chilean politicians and personalities to the Chilean Supreme Court's ruling on the Rettig report.

In a two-minute report on his news conference on the issue, Enrique Correa, minister secretary general of government, says: "The conclusions of the Supreme Court essentially confirm the existence of serious human rights violations under the previous regime." Correa also notes that the government respects the opinions of other government branches.

In a one-minute report, Raul Rettig, lawyer and head of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which issued the human rights report, says: "The Truth and Reconciliation Commission believes that if the Supreme Court had adopted a different attitude, many of the disgraces caused by the state violence would have not taken place."

In another one-minute report, Socialist Party Deputy Jaime Estevez states: "I do not share the Supreme Court's opinion, nor do I think it appropriate for the Supreme Court to use such a disqualifying tone in its ruling, which is not fitting for its status. I believe, however, that the essential issue is that the Supreme Court should focus its attention on the missing people and the serious human rights violations in Chile."

Another one-minute item on the issue carries the statements of Julio Dittborn, president of the Independent Democratic Union, UDI, who comments: "I share the Supreme Court's point of view because it is very similar to that expressed by the UDI in the past. We believe that the Rettig report is not impartial."

Comments on the issue by National Renewal Senator Miguel Otero Lathrop are cited in a one-minute report. Otero Lathrop states: "The Supreme Court clearly points out that, as in all its former conclusions, the Rettig commission considered only one version of events

without listening to other parties, such as the judicial branch, which was not given a chance to state its opinions either as judges or citizens. The Supreme Court has now put things in their place."

In another one-minute report, Socialist Senator Hernan Vodanovic Schnake says: "I dare label the Supreme Court's ruling frivolous, careless, and irresponsible. It is trying to conceal its responsibility through subterfuge and indirect reasoning, a responsibility it did not assume during the attacks on human rights under the past regime."

Finally, in another one-minute report, Sola Sierra, president of the organization of relatives of detained and missing people, reads a declaration harshly criticizing the Supreme Court's reply to the Rettig report. Sierra says the judicial branch systematically abandoned its duties during the military regime, leaving thousands of Chileans defenseless. She states: "Those who yesterday denied protection to thousands of Chileans, many of whom were murdered and hundreds of whom were made to disappear, will not receive the support of Chilean society to justify, among other arbitrary actions, the thousands of writs of protection that they rejected without any legal foundation."

Krauss on Discovery of Microphones in Ministry

PY1805005091 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 May 91

[Relay from La Moneda Palace by Nelson Oteiza]

[Text] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss has confirmed the discovery of microphones in his ministry and the fact that foreign experts participated in the search for them.

Minister Krauss made this statement at La Moneda after he was asked about comments made by Christian Labbe, former secretary general of government during the military regime, who said that Spanish security agents have been operating in Government House.

Minister Krauss reported what was found in his ministry.

[Begin Krauss recording] We found not only microphones; there was a complete set of equipment which includes various items such as microphones, antennas, batteries, and other elements. Therefore, it is a (?complete) set of devices that can be assembled. This item I have here was already deactivated when it was found. We are not certain when it was installed. [end recording]

Krauss said that Spanish, Chilean, and agents of other nationalities participated in the search for the devices. Nevertheless, he pointed out that the fact that this sort of assistance is sought should not cause alarm.

The interior minister also said that the tour that General Augusto Pinochet is carrying out abroad does not harm Chile's image. He reiterated that this is a private visit which is of interest to the Army; he therefore does not see why it should affect Chile.

Regarding the news conference granted yesterday by General Pinochet in Estoril, Portugal, Krauss said that his statements were the result of great pressure from the media.

Bill on Community Bodies Ruled Unconstitutional

PY1705232091 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] By a unanimous ruling made public this afternoon, the Constitutional Tribunal declared unconstitutional a bill on neighborhood boards and community organizations recently introduced in the Chamber of Deputies by the executive branch, thereby approving a petition made by a group of congressmen.

Constitutional Tribunal Secretary Rafael Larrail explained that some aspects of the bill have been found to be in variance with constitutional norms.

[Begin Larrail recording] The tribunal unanimously considered the bill's provisions on the existence of neighborhood boards and the existence of community unions, as approved by the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Government, Internal Affairs, Regionalization, Planning, and Social Development, to be unconstitutional. They must therefore be eliminated from the text of the bill. [end recording]

The tribunal secretary added that those provisions fundamentally violate the right of freedom of association. The petition for the unconstitutionality ruling was filed by 31 opposition congressmen.

Radical Party Elects New President

PY1905034091 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] The Radical Party national electoral board has confirmed that Senator Carlos Gonzalez Marquez is the party's new president. According to the official count, Senator Gonzalez' B ticket received 54 percent of the votes while Senator Ricardo Navarrete's A ticket got only 42 percent.

Electoral Board Chairman Leandro Carballo emphasized that the elections held on 12 May were absolutely clean. He stressed that the elections have proved that the Radical Party is a modern and democratic organization with representation throughout the nation.

Lautaro Movement Subversives Rob Bank in Santiago

PY2005190691 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 May 91

[Excerpts] An armed group that claimed to belong to the Lautaro Youth Movement stole over 3 million pesos during an attack on a branch of the Credit and Investment Bank at 40 Union Latino Americana Street, in the sector of Estacion Central.

The criminals used three vehicles, two of which were placed across the intersection of Alameda, Union Latino Americana and Salvador Sanfuentes Streets, isolating the sector.

One of the subversives got out of the vehicle and aimed his weapon at pedestrians while the others burst into the bank, where they overpowered the customers. [passage omitted]

The attackers fled in a Chevrolet Monza Car, with license BP-2736, which is being sought by personnel of the Santiago police. Personnel of the Carabineros Special Police Operations Group (GOPE) carefully looked for explosive devices in the vehicles that had been parked across the streets. They found that the vehicles were used merely as obstacles to help the criminals escape.

The subversives left leaflets with slogans of the Lautaro Movement.

Colombia

Government Agrees to Pablo Escobar's Demands

PA2005202391 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1841 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Bogota, 20 May (NOTIMEX)—Minister of Justice Jaime Giraldo Angel said today that the Colombian Government is willing to accept Pablo Escobar Gaviria's demands and enforce the security measures that he demands for his surrender.

Escobar, kingpin of the Medellin Cartel, had told Father Rafael Garcia Herreros that he has not surrendered to the Colombian authorities for fear of being murdered.

"If necessary, we would prepare a special prison to guarantee his safety," Giraldo Angel said.

He added that the government would make arrangements for the drug trafficker to be watched over by the Colombian Army, an international human rights, and a Red Cross commission. Also, as demanded, the government will refrain from assigning vigilance duties to the police.

The drug trafficker suggested to Father Garcia Herreros the town of Envigado, near Medellin, as a place of detention for him. "We can outfit that prison," the minister of justice said.

The expectation over Escobar Gaviria's surrender to the authorities increased after the Extraditables announced last night that they would release journalists Francisco Santos and Maruja Pachon.

According to Garcia Herreros, the Medellin Cartel head is willing to take advantage of the decree stating that any drug traffickers who surrender to the authorities on their own volition will not be extradited and that their penalties will be reduced.

Brothers Jorge Luis, Juan David, and Fabio Ochoa Vasquez, second in command in the Medellin Cartel structure, took advantage of these decrees between December and January.

These drug traffickers are being held in the Itagui prison, 20 km south of Medellin. Escobar, however, said this prison does not meet the requirements needed to ensure his safety.

To Meet Priest

PA2105132191 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1215 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Priest Rafael Garcia Herreros has disclosed that he plans to meet today somewhere in the mountains of Antioquia with Medellin Cartel chief Pablo Escobar Gaviria to arrange his surrender to the authorities.

The prelate asked the Colombian people to respect Escobar, adding that he must not be considered a superficial person.

Kidnapped Journalists Reportedly Released

PA2105013091 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0021 GMT 21 May 91

[Text] Attention, Maruja Pachon de Villamizar was released just a few minutes ago in northern Bogota. Last-minute reports indicate that Alberto Villamizar, Maruja Pachon's husband, received a telephone call asking him to go to northern Bogota, apparently to meet Maruja Pachon. According to radio reports, she was left at a house in northern Bogota, between 107 and 127 Streets. At this time she is traveling to her house, where her family and friends will be very happy to welcome her back.

Both Maruja Pachon and Francisco Santos have apparently been released. These are reports we are receiving by radio. They are apparently in northern Bogota. Maruja's husband received a call and he is taking his private car to meet her and perhaps also Francisco Santos. The release occurred between 107 or 127 Streets, the exact location has yet to be confirmed.

We can add that Maruja Pachon is in perfect health and our cameras have been sent to the site.

Reportage on Proceedings of Constituent Assembly

U.S. Envoy's Statement Viewed

PA2005163791 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1220 GMT 20 May 91

[Interview with Constituent Assembly members Armando Holguin, Miguel Santamaria, and Diego Uribe by unidentified reporters at the Constituent Assembly in Bogota—live]

[Text] [Reporter] We are broadcasting our newcast from the National Constituent Assembly. Here is our first confidential report. Pay close attention to this news:

Top-ranking government officials are seriously annoyed with U.S. Ambassador Thomas McNamara for his 17 May statement on this station that the Constituent Assembly is neither free nor democratic. The Colombian Government believes that Ambassador McNamara is openly meddling in the country's political problems and trying to apply pressure on the National Constituent Assembly. Dr. Holguin, what is your opinion about this?

[Holguin] I believe that everyone in the country can voice his opinion, except the ambassadors accredited here. In any other state the ambassador would have at least received a note from the government censuring his attitude and even declaring him persona non grata if it is believed he was applying pressure. I do not know the details of his statement, but the very fact that he made it constitutes an imprudence that the government must reject.

[Reporter] What is the opinion of Dr. Miguel Santamaria Davila, member of the National Constituent Assembly?

[Santamaria] I believe that this is a very unusual situation. This would not be usual anywhere. I believe that the National Constituent Assembly has not been the target of pressure of any sort. It is acting sovereignly in the discussion of all topics presented before it. I believe that this is a rather unusual situation.

[Reporter] Dr. Santamaria, the man who spoke of the extradition issue to the Constituent Assembly is approaching our table here. Good morning, Dr. Diego Uribe Vargas.

[Uribe] Good morning.

[Reporter] Let me fill you in. We were talking just now about the U.S. ambassador's statements on 17 May that caught Colombians by surprise. He said that the Constituent Assembly has been neither free nor democratic. What is your opinion?

[Uribe] When questioned about this, I have said that the ambassador must back up his charges. No human being in the free world can level such charges without backing them up and without saying exactly who has been pressured and how he learned about this.

In other words, I believe that more details must be provided. One cannot talk about democracy in such a careless fashion in a country that does nothing more than act in accordance to its status as a legal state and in defense of the people's freedoms. The ambassador is meddling in the country's life. This is outrageous in the light of diplomatic courtesy and good relations among nations.

[Reporter] Dr. Uribe, Ambassador McNamara had not heard of or read about an open, public, and democratic debate in Colombia on an issue as important as extradition.

[Uribe] The sessions of the two joint commissions were public. The newspapers gathered a lot of important information during these sessions and published commentaries. I made my position public two weeks ago; I handed it to the press and it was published.

[Reporter] And it has been discussed over the radio, television, and elsewhere.

[Uribe] Of course.

[Reporter] I believe that Dr. Holguin wants to say something.

[Holguin] The sole issue that was never debated was extradition. There was never a debate when the 1979 extradition with the United States was approved. The debate came after the treaty. The code was made flexible to allow the approval of the treaty. I spoke to Dr. Parejo Gonzalez when we were proposing forums at the universities and he told me that very strange things happen in this country. Laws and treaties are signed before debates take place. This is why there is confusion. Perhaps the ambassador remembers the previous treaty and not the current one that has been discussed openly.

[Reporter] Dr. Uribe, what do you have to add?

[Uribe] There is something that is even more serious: When President Barco declared extradition via administrative means, he did so in the evening. He did so clandestinely. The extradition of certain people was virtually done clandestinely. They were taken to the United States aboard a DEA plane without having any recourse in national institutions.

[Reporter] Dr. Santamaria?

[Santamaria] I believe that there has been no foreign pressure, or at least we have felt no foreign pressure, from any quarter.

[Reporter] You have not been pressured?

[Santamaria] I have not been pressured by anyone, and I have not heard that anyone has been. Thus, the debate that followed Dr. Uribe's speech—and the debate was indeed thorough—was extensively published and has produced many pro and con opinions, and these opinions have been voiced in complete freedom.

Constitutional Draft Completed

PA2005133591 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] The National Constituent Assembly is 47 days away from the end of its discussions aimed at issuing a new Constitution for the country. For almost three months, the five commissions of the Constituent Assembly have worked to prepare what has become the draft amendments that will be studied next week by the Plenary of the Assembly. Approximately 350 articles have been approved and cover such subjects as human rights; strengthening the provinces, Congress, and political reforms; the judicial branch; and the economic reforms that seek privatization—just to mention a few overall topics.

Other revisions approved so far include changing the concept of God in the preamble as the source of

authority to protector of the people. Obligatory voting was modified, and the possibility of allowing divorce was considered by eliminating the current restrictions on Catholic marriages. In the field of judicial reform, the Assembly approved the accusatory system [sistema acusatorio] and the creation of a constitutional court, as well as the non-extradition of Colombians.

The Constituent Assembly also established the gradual adoption of a state of siege that has become the legislative rule, rather than the exception, of recent years used by the government to control public order.

As of this week, the Plenary of the Assembly will give definite form to the articles of the new Colombian Constitution and establish temporary norms that will prevent abrupt changes in the constitutional system of the country.

Commission Recommends Changes

PA1905221791 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 May 91 p 1A, 6A

[Text] Ten of the 12 members of the Constituent Assembly's third commission, who yesterday attended the meeting where substantial changes in the country's foreign policy were approved, agreed that, after 128 years, Congress will recover the authority to ratify or reject the president of the Republic's ambassadorial appointments. Antonio Galan, among others, abstained.

This power, which the Constituent Assembly is recovering, is not new. It had already been established in the Cucuta Constitution of 1821 and the Rionegro Constitution of 1863.

According to the text of the resolution, the Senate—or the Congress, if there is one chamber at the time—is empowered "to either ratify or reject the appointments for ambassadors and permanent diplomatic mission heads made by the president of the Republic." Special ambassadors designated for temporary missions are excluded.

In addition, the third commission introduced changes in the parameters for establishing citizenship. Dual and multiple citizenship will be permitted. This means that a Colombian who has become the citizen of another country will not lose his original citizenship and that a foreigner who is a citizen of other countries may request Colombian citizenship. Dual citizenship is similarly recognized for Colombians, such as Indians, living in border areas.

The Constitution's view that any Colombian-born person who has relinquished his citizenship and fights against Colombia in a war with another country is a traitor remains. The by-laws will determine the status of any foreigner who might take up arms against Colombia in the event of war.

The third commission left for today voting on the text of the article dealing with jurisdictional control over international treaties, accords, or agreements.

Three proposals were presented to the commission. One of them was presented by Alfredo Vasquez and Miguel Santamaria, who think that the treaties should be revised by the Constitutional Court before they are ratified by Congress. According to a proposal presented by Guillermo Plazas, the Congress should ask the court to make the revision whenever the Congress members have doubts on a particular treaty's constitutionality. The third proposal, the same one received by the Assembly's fourth commission, regards the court as the revising body, which would act after the treaties or agreements are ratified by Congress.

In view of this, a drafting commission, made up of Miguel Santamaria, Arturo Mejia, and Alfredo Vasquez, was appointed. In addition, an alternate proposal submitted by Liberal Party member Hernando Herrera was left pending for discussion.

Furthermore, two amendments dealing with the validity of treaties were approved. According to the first one, proposed by Vasquez, "an international human rights agreement will be regarded as approved if the Congress fails to rule on it after the president of the Republic presented it during the current legislature."

The other amendment reads like this: "The president of the Republic will have until the next regular legislature, following the one during which an international agreement or treaty was signed, to present it to the Congress."

Official Interviewed

PA1805132591 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 May 91

[Interview with National Constituent Assembly President Alvaro Gomez Hurtado by Juan Carlos Santacruz at the Inravision studios—live]

[Text] [Santacruz] Good afternoon. The latest events at the National Constituent Assembly [ANC] have confused a country that is fed up with confrontations. The country's greatest hope is that the ANC will truly provide an opportunity to attain peace. We have invited one of the three ANC presidents, Doctor Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, to dispel some doubts and clarify some of the people's questions. Thank you for being with us.

[Gomez] Thank you.

[Santacruz] Dr. Gomez, the ANC approved a legislative decree that makes its regulations constitutional norms.

[Gomez] Yes.

[Santacruz] This gives one the idea that the ANC is too arrogant and too eager to gain prominence.

[Gomez] No, no, no.

[Santacruz] Is it arrogance?

[Gomez] It is interesting. The ANC was called so that it would become something new, so that it would make

great changes. The president of the Republic even said that it was necessary to make a complete changeover. In fact, he said it was necessary to carry out a revolution. Certain limits were established, and the court vetoed the limits. I toured the country saying: Watch out, we will elect an all-powerful organization. No one cared. People thought they would dominate things with their influence. We held elections and the result was the most heterogeneous organization in the country's political history. It is impressive. It includes a little of everything, and I think that this shows a new side of politics.

We have freed politics from influence peddling, and everyone is able to participate—Indians, Protestants, Communists, dissidents, and traditionalists. That is positive. Now people are concerned, and I think that the problem is not whether the ANC is all-powerful or not. That should have been discussed before the elections. We already knew it would be all-powerful. We now have to discuss an orderly way to do things, and such an heterogeneous group has done nothing wrong so far. Everything is done correctly; everything is done unanimously—well, almost everything. When 60 or 62 members out of 72 approve something, it represents a great consensus. We are happy; everything is all right. There is no need for concern.

[Santacruz] Dr. Gomez, the country's politicians understand the intricacies of politics, but the citizenry find them confusing. For example, the citizenry want to know how a person who has an ideology that vastly differs from that of his former kidnappers today comprises a coalition with them in the ANC. How do you explain the fact that a man who is so different from them, ideologically speaking, can be part of a coalition with them?

[Gomez] There is no coalition. Some people have tried to imply that there is a coalition, but what we actually have is an agreement. One cannot form a coalition with unanimous votes. It would be senseless. We all agree about something. The only thing we have noted is that Antonio Navarro's position coincides with mine on certain political issues. We have substantial differences with the M-19 [19 April Movement] because our traditions are completely different—and I was kidnapped by them.

Our doctrines and temperaments differ, but if someone wants to exert his influence we will reject that. We agree on that with Navarro, and we agree on that with the others—the independent Conservative Party members, the Indians, the Protestants, and all of them. We all agree that we will not let anyone manipulate us, and that is why we will defend the ballot. If we do not, the Congress will eliminate it, and we will return to influence peddling. We are working on that. We are trying to draft a reform by consensus and we are trying to draft the reform [words indistinct], which is what has been previously done. This is a legitimate goal.

[Santacruz] Dr. Gomez, to conclude—and I will ask you to be brief—you have stated that the mandate will be revoked depending on the reforms to the National Congress. The third commission has made substantial reforms that will obviously result in a revocation because most of the current congressmen's posts will be rendered null.

[Gomez] Yes, that is true. One has to save the reforms. If the reforms are substantial enough and if they are endangered by a legislative branch that does not understand them—or, even worse, that opposes them—then we must take the necessary precautions so that this does not happen. It has already happened, meaning that constitutional amendments are later eliminated in one way or another. We hope that this does not happen now. The ANC's goal is not to liquidate the Congress or anything like that. That is not the goal—at least that is not the goal of the National Salvation Movement. We did not join the ANC for this. We want to draft reforms and to defend the reforms as much as we can.

[Santacruz] Dr. Gomez, thank you for being with us.

Delegates on Extradition Ban

PA1805193391 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 May 91

[Interview with Dr. Juan Carlos Esguerra Portocarrero, Constituent Assembly delegate and member of the Assembly's First Commission representing the National Salvation Movement, by unidentified reporters in Bogota—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Good morning, Dr. Esguerra.

[Esguerra] Good morning, how are you?

[Reporter] I am very well sir. Well, the non-extradition of Colombians now needs to be approved twice by the Constituent Assembly plenum. Is this correct?

[Esguerra] Yes. What occurred yesterday was simply a meeting of the joint session of the First and Fourth Constituent Assembly Commissions, which had been tasked with studying this issue from different perspectives. There, the extradition of Colombians was eliminated in principle by a majority of 16 votes for and four against, with several abstentions. This will naturally have to be submitted for approval to the Assembly plenum during the two corresponding rounds.

[Reporter] Dr. Esguerra, the vote was 16 for and four against...

[Second unidentified reporter, interrupting] You have to add four more, because there were 16 votes in favor, four against, and four abstentions.

[Reporter] Some people are complaining about pressure received right up until the last minute of the vote, at least after this first result concerning extradition. Do you feel pressured?

[Esguerra] Listen, I think that there were many things. First, there was undeclared, unspecified, yet clear pressure placed on all the Constituent Assembly delegates. I

know that in some cases, some Assembly delegates had received various kinds of threats.

[Reporter] Dr. Esguerra, by completely eliminating extradition, that is, eliminating it from the Constitution, are we not exposing Colombian justice to things for which it is not prepared, such as bribery, murders, etc.?

[Esguerra] This is one of the reasons for defending the opposite argument. Meanwhile, some people have said that, as a result of the institutional reforms that are being prepared by the Constituent Assembly, the judicial system of Colombia, as well as the justice administration system, must be strengthened, improved, and prepared to fulfill its obligations. This will in no way lead to impunity.

[Reporter] What is your reaction to what happened last night at the Constituent Assembly?

[Esguerra] I think that the discussions will have to continue at the plenum level, and the government will have to comment on the issue. We regret that the corresponding government ministers could not attend yesterday's session, as a result of prior engagements. The opinion of the ministers will be very important before a final decision is made on the issue.

[Reporter] Dr. Esguerra, I asked the previous question because Constituent Assembly Delegate Maria Mercedes Carranza had stated that, given reasons known to all, there is no chance of this debate taking place. Thus, anyone who dares discuss this will place themselves in danger.

[Esguerra] This is absolutely true. We heard yesterday the remarks of all those who support extradition... [corrects himself] those who favor eliminating extradition. It was very clear that those who may support the opposite stance were not in a position to express their views.

[Reporter] Dr. Juan Carlos Esguerra, the issue of extradition does not only refer to extradition. It offers the possibility for the return of all Colombian prisoners to jails in our country, and also that all Colombians who have committed crimes abroad be brought to Colombia to stand trial and face justice here. How do you see the future perspectives of this possibility?

[Esguerra] I think that these are two separate things. First, we are referring to the elimination of the extradition of Colombians. This means that we will have to make adjustments to the internal legislative and government measures to conform with this new decision. By doing this, we will prevent this phenomenon from taking place in the future. In fact, the extradition of Colombians during the last few months had decreased considerably. I do not think that this law will have retroactive effects, or that it will allow the government to demand the return of those people who had been turned over for extradition, because this measure was in effect according to our legislation at that time. In addition, the provisions of the treaties signed by Colombia, which had been ratified by the Congress, were also in effect.

[Reporter] Dr. Esguerra, thank you very much for talking with Radio Cadena Nacional.

[Esguerra] It is my pleasure.

Congressional Reaction to Assembly Proposal Noted

PA1805184691 Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 8 May 91 p 11

[Report by Cesar Ruiz]

[Text] The congressmen, who are opposed to new elections, are demonstrating that they know little about politics and even less about military strategy.

Their reaction to the Constituent Assembly's first constituent action was rage, empty rage. They are thinking about getting even, but there is no room for this in a country that is making efforts toward peace.

Congress concluded that the Assembly has done away with Article 83 of the current Constitution, which leads to putting an end to minority rights, and all this is being done with the government's consent.

This assertion is an allusion to the clause that states: "The laws that modify the electoral system must be approved by two thirds of the votes of those in attendance."

This regulation was abolished in a first debate by the first constituent action. Now they will talk about the simple majority of those in attendance.

This will, in fact, lead to Congress' dissolution, thereby fulfilling a popular wish but making the congressmen angry and indignant.

It is untrue, however, that the Assembly is trying to snatch the rights of the minorities from them. Such a purpose has never been acknowledged, neither implicitly nor explicitly.

The reforms are only now beginning and they take the minorities into consideration, but mechanisms have yet to be defined.

A question out of the blue: Who are the chairmen of the five Constituent Assembly commissions?

Here are some reactions from congressmen who attended the 7 May session.

"They will have to send the Army to close Congress because we will be there to defend it, if possible with our own blood," said Carlos Holguin Sardi.

Meanwhile, Edmundo Lopez Gomez proposed that "the Armed Forces be called in to defend the de jure state, which has been violated by events at the Assembly. A lawsuit should be filed against that action."

In passing, we also heard timid voices attempting to avoid radical positions, such as Felix Salcedo Baldion's:

"I believe that we should try not to intensify the confrontation with the Assembly. We should turn to dialogue to reach agreements."

And militarism kept emerging. Roberto Gerlein said: "We should summon the Armed Forces. The constituent action is savage and is not in keeping with the country's judicial and political traditions. This is not a declaration of war; the Assembly has declared war on us."

Meanwhile, top liberal leader Alfonso Lopez Michelsen said that "the purpose of the constituent action is to dissolve Congress, and I am willing to go to the public square to defend liberal ideas."

Lopez Michelsen also said: "Some people speak of current law and others of future law; in their opinion the fight is already lost."

There are no political concepts through which we can establish the foundations of an agreement that will benefit the country instead of the prerogatives of influence peddlers, who on 7 May reacted as if they were privileged individuals at the edge of an abyss.

Because they lack arguments, these congressmen want to get the Armed Forces involved, but with such bad luck that they have revealed their utilitarian views.

The country has the floor, but the constituent actions will tolerate no delays.

'Red' Phone With Guerrillas Reestablished

PA2005032491 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2229 GMT 19 May 91

[Excerpts] Bogota, 19 May (DPA)—As of tomorrow and for the next 10 days, the Colombian Government will reestablish communications with the guerrillas through a "red" telephone, a channel opened eight years ago by President Belisario Betancur (1982-1986) to conduct peace contacts with the rebel armed groups, an official spokesmen announced today.

President Cesar Gaviria, who returned today to the country after attending a meeting of the Andean Pact countries in Caracas, will have direct telephone contact from the presidential palace in Bogota with the main representatives of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CGSB). [passage omitted]

With the so-called "red" telephone, the most important rebel leaders, including Manuel Marulanda, of the Rebel Armed Forces of Colombia; former Spanish priest Manuel Perez, of the Army of National Liberation; and Francisco Caravallo, of the Army of Popular Liberation, will be able to coordinate with the government from secret locations on conditions for choosing spokesmen, transportation for those traveling to Caracas, meeting places, and security measures at the meeting.

According to sources from the peace advisory office, permanent communications are necessary for guaranteeing that the persons chosen for the conversations have true decisionmaking powers.

Unidentified Individuals Kidnap Former Guerrillas

PA2005195991 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2028 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Bogota, 19 May (EFE)—Four members of the "Hope, Peace, and Freedom" Party, the new name of the former guerrilla Popular Liberation Army (EPL), have been kidnapped by an, as yet, unidentified group, reports Jaime Fajardo, the party's delegate to the Constituent Assembly.

The assailants, who concealed their faces with ski masks, burst into a Montelibano hotel in Cordoba Department, 600 km northwest of the Colombian capital, and forced the four party members to go with them to an undisclosed location, Fajardo said at the Assembly.

According to the EPL spokesman, this kidnapping fulfills the threats made against the party over the past few weeks.

The kidnapped men, Argemiro Ramos, Edison Javier Ortega, Gilberto Brand Carvajal, (the fourth has not been identified), belong to the EPL's "Francisco Garnica" front, which in May signed a definitive peace pact with President Cesar Gaviria's government.

Fajardo demanded that the Gaviria government "guarantee" the former fighters' lives, adding that since the EPL's conversion, six of its members have been murdered.

Government, Guerrilla Clashes 6-15 May Noted

PA1705215691

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports monitored in Colombian media on low-intensity government-guerrilla clashes from 6-15 May:

Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish on 6 May carries a 350-word report on page 7 stating that "at least 15 persons were kidnapped by guerrilla forces and criminals" in "Antioquia Department." The information reveals that "members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] 51st Front raided the area of Santa Margarita" and "kidnapped 10 workers" in El Bagre. Furthermore, heavily armed men kidnapped one farmer, one cattleman, and two agronomists in Frontino, Catre, and Cimarron, respectively.

The same edition carries a 400-word report on page 7 citing state security agencies' statistics, which detail that "221 persons, including soldiers, policemen, guerrilla fighters, and peasants" have been killed during the last 35 days. According to the official figures, "86 rebels—mostly FARC and ELN [Army of National Liberation] members—were killed and 200 were captured" by the authorities; and "49 Army and police members were killed and

100 were kidnapped." In addition, "more than 60 Army and police members have been kidnapped by the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CGSB)," and "60 peasants were killed in different regions of the country." Most of the subversive actions occurred in Cauca, Juila, Meta, Santander, Cesar, Antioquia, Norte de Santander, and Boyaca Departments; and the clashes occured in Antioquia, Cordoba, Caqueta, and Huila Departments, and the Putumayo administrative area.

Madrid EFE in Spanish on 9 May carries a 300-word report that "one policeman" and "seven rebels" died today in two clashes in Cordoba and Norte de Santander Departments. The report says that "five dissidents of the Popular Liberation Army [EPL] died" in a clash with "2d Military Division troops" between "Zulia and Tibu." Also, "one security agent and two FARC rebels died" and "four security agents were wounded" when members of the FARC's 35th Front seized the town of San Jose de Ure, Cordoba Department.

Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 10 May carries a one-minute report stating that "one FARC urban commando member was arrested" last night after throwing a dynamite bomb at a police patrol car, "killing one policeman and wounding three others." The information says that the attack was perpetrated in the area of Robledo, located northwest of Medellin.

Inravision also carries a one-minute report which says that four men and the parish priest of Tunungue were travelling to Otanche, Boyaca Department, this morning when "a column of 50 FARC rebels" opened fire on the vehicle, killing them on the spot.

Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish on 12 May publishes a 600-word report on page 3, which says that "one policeman, five guerrilla fighters, and 22 citizens were killed within the last 48 hours." The information reveals that "five men were killed by armed gunmen" northwest of Medellin; and "one woman and her three sons" were killed in La Granja, Carolina municipality. Furthermore, "the tortured bodies of three men were found on the Medellin-Bogota highway;" and gunmen "killed six citizens and wounded six others" in downtown Cali. In addition, "five rebels were killed" in the outskirts of Cucuta, during a clash between security forces and a dissident EPL column.

Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 13 May carries a one-minute report on the death of five soldiers of the 9th Infantry Brigade during an ambush carried out by FARC in Pitalito, Huila Department. One lieutenant, two NCOs, and two privates were killed, and one NCO and a private were wounded. "Following the violent ambush, the guerrillas took six rifles, 12 grenades, and one military communications radio," the report states.

Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish on 15 May carries on page 7, a 70-word report on a 14 May attack on the town of Tamara by the FARC's 20th Front. The rebels killed two policemen and wounded six more during an attack on a police precinct. In addition, "they destroyed the Agrarian Bank office and part of the municipality building, and set fire to several stores."

Paraguay

Rodriguez Meets ROC Military Delegation

OW1705185391 Taipei CNA in English 1545 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Asuncion, May 16, (CNA)—Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez told a Republic of China [ROC] military delegation Wednesday he hopes the cordial relations between the two countries will be further strengthened in the future.

President Rodriguez expressed the hope when he received General Chen Hsing-ling, chief of the General Staff of the Republic of China Armed Forces, at his office.

The Paraguayan chief of state, who visited Taipei last June, asked Chen to convey his best regards to President Li Teng-hui and Premier Hao Po-tsun.

Chen told reporters after the meeting that he was glad to visit Paraguay and participate in the independent day celebrations of the country.

"We have observed with deep impression the high morale and the patriotism of our Paraguayan brothers. The relations between our two countries are very close because we share the same anti-communist position and we are both determined to struggle for world freedom and democracy," the general said.

Earlier in the day, Gen. Chen and other members of the delegation were decorated by Paraguayan Defense Minister Angel Juan Souto Hernandez on behalf of his government.

Minister Souto said in the ceremony that the relations between the ROC and Paraguay are based on friendship and cooperation. "Our two countries are united by a firm relationship and a joint goal: democracy and freedom," he added.

Ruling Party Candidate Attacked During Rally

PY2105013691 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 May 91 p 4

[Excerpts] Juan Manuel Morales, Colorado Party candidate for mayor of Asuncion, has said that he was the object of an aborted attack on the night of 18 May during a rally in Loma Pyta. According to Morales' followers, Octaciano Oviedo Villaverde, 24, single, fired three shots during a rally in a shed. Oviedo Villaverde and Ignacio Castillo were detained a few minutes after the alleged attack.

According to the report, Nicolas Gomez hit Oviedo's arm at the moment of the shots, and had he not done so, the consequences would have been more serious for the Colorado Party candidate.

But other reports state that although Morales and Oviedo Villaverde had an argument just before the shots, which were fired in the air, there was no intention whatsoever of wounding any of the participants, much less the Colorado Party candidate. This report differs from that given by Morales and some of his followers. [passage omitted]

According to the Colorado Party members, the attack was carried out by people who work for Carlos Filizzola's campaign. Filizzola is a candidate of the "Asuncion For All" movement; according to some polls, this movement is Morales' main contender. Those responsible for Filizzola's campaign in this neighborhood have denied the accusations, stating that the accused never worked for the movement.

Officers from the police station in the area declined to give further details of the incident, but the police chief said that at the moment of the arrest, the accused individuals were "a little drunk and very happy."

Peru

Shining Path Leader Julian Garcia Arrested

PY2005204491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1950 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Lima, 20 May (TELAM-DPA)—The Lima police officially reported this afternoon that Julian Garcia, an important leader in the Shining Path Maoist guerrilla group, was arrested in Lima in the last few hours.

Garcia, 31, is the Shining Path chief in Acroco District in southern Ayacucho Province. Garcia is one of the main leaders of the Shining Path "hit squads" (groups responsible for killing Shining Path enemies). The authorities are charging Garcia with at least 28 killings.

The guerrilla leader, who was in Lima to attend a series of clandestine meetings, was arrested before dawn today at an elegant residence in Lima's La Molina District, where he was staying.

APRA Seeks To Rescind Drug Accord With U.S.

PY2005184491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2258 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Lima, 19 May (EFE)—The American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) today announced that it will submit to Congress a bill aimed at rescinding the U.S.-Peruvian antidrug agreement that was signed last 14 May.

The agreement was unexpectedly signed on 14 May shortly before President Alberto Fujimori addressed Congress to explain its content. It has been strongly criticized by leftist and rightist opponents alike.

The local press today carries a communique issued by the national executive board of the APRA, which ruled the country from July 1985 to July 1990 under the leadership of former President Alan Garcia. The communique says the APRA has ordered its lawmakers to submit "as soon as possible" a bill against the agreement.

The APRA contends that the agreement "authorizes the imposition by a foreign country of a neoliberal economic policy that will force the people into further poverty, violate constitutional provisions governing the administration of the state, militarize the drug problem, and thus raise the possibility of foreign military intervention."

The APRA also describes the agreement as "a step backward" with regard to the agreements signed in Cartagena in February 1990 by the presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, and the United States, whereby the U.S. administration committed itself to giving economic support to the antidrug fight and admitted its share of responsibility in creating the problem.

Roberto MacLean, the Peruvian ambassador to the United States, signed the agreement in Lima with his U.S. counterpart, Anthony Quainton. In remarks before departing for Washington, MacLean said that the document was "thoroughly studied" by experts and that it is "flawless."

MacLean believes the agreement will enable President Fujimori's government to make " major progress" in its effort to eradicate the drug trade.

Some Legislators Feel 'Cheated'

PY1805223691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0404 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Lima, 17 May (EFE)—It was reported in Lima today that the sudden signing of the antidrug agreement between Peru and the United States, which took place on 14 May, has prompted a group of deputies representing various inclinations to request an interpellation of Peruvian Prime Minister Carlos Torres y Torres Lara and his cabinet.

A total of 28 legislators have signed a motion submitted on the night of 16 May, which requests that Minister Torres appear before the Chamber of Deputies to explain the details of the negotiations and the contents and scope of the agreement, which has triggered a strong debate.

The signing of the U.S.-Peruvian agreement, a source of controversy that some sectors considered inconvenient and harmful to the country, caused an even greater uproar and protests by opposition groups because it was done before Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori decided to appear before Congress.

Some congressmen have even said that the fact that Fujimori explained the contents of a document that had already been signed by the two countries—and that was

supposed to be signed after a debate in Congress—"cheated" the national representatives.

The motion requesting the interpellation of the prime minister and his cabinet, signed by leftist and rightist deputies, will be submitted for consideration to the plenum of the Chamber of Deputies, which has 180 members, on 21 May. According to a spokesman for the signatories, the petition needs 60 votes to be approved.

The antidrug agreement is regarded as highly significant for Peru, with implications for national life. Its contents are also believed to include a series of questionable aspects.

Leftist Senator Carlos Malpica, one of the strongest opponents of the agreement, was suspended by the Senate for 15 days on 16 May for refusing to take back comments he made during the debate on Fujimori's address to Congress that were regarded as offensive to his colleagues.

Malpica said: "It is time to act like real men and to once and for all act with dignity," intimating that the senators had meekly accepted the president's appearance before Congress to explain the antidrug agreement that Peru and the United States had already signed.

'National Debate' on Accord

PY1805021091

[Editorial Report] Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish at 0007 on 17 May carries live the first "national debate" on the antidrug agreement recently signed with the United States from the State Petroleum Agency conference hall in Lima. The station joins the debate in progress, and no identification of the participants is monitored. From the course of the 53-minute broadcast it can be determined that the participants include an unidentified moderator and four men who participated in negotiating the drug agreement: Roberto MacLean Ugarteche, Peruvian ambassador to the United States; Hernando de Soto, director of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy; and Miguel Gonzalez del Rio and Dr. Jorge Avendano, who are not further identified. The debate follows a question-and-answer format, with questions submitted by representatives of various organizations through the moderator.

The first set of questions addresses the fact that Peruvian society was not previously consulted on the accord, as would have been appropriate under the executive branch's policy of democratizing government decisions. Dr. Avendano and Hernando de Soto answer by pointing out that private consultations had been held with political leaders and media representatives to get an idea of how the agreement could be negotiated. They contend that popular consultations could not be made at the time because negotiations cannot be conducted publicly. Hernando de Soto says the public debate can occur now that the agreement has been signed so that conclusions can be submitted to the nation's president to guide his actions in implementing the agreement.

Hernando de Soto then fields a question regarding the Alternative Development Authority, ADA, which was created by decree in December 1990, and why the final text of the agreement only mentions the organization, even though it was referred to in detail in the initial drafts. Hernando de Soto says: "In fact, the ADA was created by decree because it was necessary to send a sign of Peru's interest in taking responsibility for the struggle against drug trafficking, as demanded by the international community. I will try to explain something as clearly as possible. When a Latin American president wants to change the rules of the game, as President Fujimori showed he wanted to do with certain gestures and actions in October 1990, when he did not sign the military agreement with the United States, it was necessary to give a sign that he was determined to proceed with the struggle against drug trafficking and to undertake an alternative development plan."

De Soto adds: "It was later noticed that, before an autonomous authority was actually created, a large sector of Peruvian public opinion wanted more discussion and more participation by the public and Congress. This is why the acronym ADA was left out of the agreement; it became obvious that Peru and its president would have to tackle the creation of this authority in a different manner than was originally conceived. This is a flexible answer to Peruvian public opinion. It could then be realized that an authority to oversee the problems of alternative development and to administer Peru's foreign policy on drug trafficking could be created in the future."

Hernando de Soto notes in conclusion: "It is absolutely necessary for the person who will administer the antidrug policy and manage the alternative development project, in which important resources will be handled, to have the support of the various political forces in the country."

Answering a question on the possible cost of the antidrug program, Hernando de Soto says that to attract funds from abroad Peru should argue its position in such a way that the response from the international community will be positive, despite the fact that Peru is deeply in debt. He then notes: "The agreement is therefore very important for obtaining the resources necessary to carry out not only the struggle against drug trafficking but to implement the alternative development project as an integral part of the whole process needed to stabilize the country and to make it grow."

Replying to another question, Hernando de Soto says: "It is obvious that if either of the two countries does not live up to the agreement, it will be ineffective."

The moderator announces at the end of the broadcast that the debate will continue on 23 and 25 May, when the public at large will be able to participate through telephone calls.

Fujimori, Ministers Depart for Caracas Meeting

PY1705161291 Lima Radio Nacional del Peru Pachacutec Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has left for Caracas, Venezuela, to participate today in the fifth meeting of Andean Pact presidents. During the sessions, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, Colombian President Cesar Gaviria, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez will try to improve customs integration.

During the absence of Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, who is both prime minister and foreign minister, Labor Minister Alfonso de los Heros will handle Foreign Ministry issues. The prime minister will attend the 11th meeting of the Andean Foreign Ministers Council. He will also accompany the chief of state at the fifth Andean Presidential Council meeting, which will begin today in Caracas.

Interior Minister Victor Malca Villanueva will replace Industry Minister Victor Joy Wa, who will also participate in the Andean Presidential Council meeting.

Fujimori Returns From Summit

PY2005153291 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 20 May 91

[Excerpts] President Alberto Fujimori has expressed his satisfaction at having participated in the fifth meeting of Andean Pact presidents and over the agreements reached on matters related to subregional integration included in the Caracas Declaration.

Arriving in Lima early this morning, Fujimori said that by 1995 the Andean Group will comprise a solid bloc that will enable member countries to freely trade with other countries of the same Andean subregion. He also termed the fifth Andean Pact summit as positive for its members.

The Andean Pact summit was instrumental in strengthening the integration mechanism of the subregion, within the framework of a clear understanding and the firm desire of the Andean Pact member country presidents, thus accelerating the integrationist process on key points like the creation of the Latin American common market before the end of the century and the decision to ratify the creation of a free trade zone beginning January 1992. The presidents also gave priority to topics on communications and transport. They ratified the open-sky policy that will allow airlines of each member country to freely operate the routes linking the Andean Pact member countries.

In the political sector, they proposed the signing of an additional protocol of the Andean Parliament Constitutive Treaty that seeks to update the function and the policy of this organization.

The presidents also agreed to hold a joint meeting with U.S. President Bush to discuss a multilateral negotiation that can help to implement coordinated actions to effectively confront and eradicate drug trafficking.

The Andean Pact member countries decided to grant $40 million to Peru, seeking to help this country rejoin the international financial community. Fujimori said that this decision is an important step that will help Peru to achieve the required sum to regularize its debt. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister Carlos Bolona reiterated that in order to consolidate the support group, European countries must decide on the funds they will provide. He stressed the initiative of the Andean Pact member countries that will grant $40 million.

[Begin recording] [Bolona] As you know, the negotiations provide for the creation of the support group, of which the United States has decided to assume the leadership. Many EEC member countries will also take part of the support group but decisions have still to be made as far as the funds are concerned. I believe that the Andean Group member countries have taken the initiative by deciding to provide $40 million. It is up to them and their respective legislations to decide how to distribute this fund, and thus become the first bloc to define their participation in the support group.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Bolona] The Andean Pact member countries are setting an example.

[Reporter] Has it been decided when the fund will be available?

[Bologna] The presidents must discuss this with their officials. They have definitely agreed to give $40 million. This is an important step and an example. It also represents significant financial support because it is a soft loan [credito concesional] payable over a very long term that will allow us to finance it at an advantageous rate.

[Reporter] Which country will lead this support group?

[Bolona] I think that Venezuela should be the leader of the support group and that it will assume the leadership of the mini-support group of the Andean Group [sentence as heard]. Therefore, it is up to Venezuela to make a decision on the appropriate time to provide its support, and that of the other countries.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Bolona] The United States, which is a member of the major group, of which ....

[Reporter, interrupting] What has thus far prevented the creation of the support group?

[Bolona] It has been decided that the United States and Japan will jointly lead the group. They are engaged in a major discussion on the funds to be provided. The EEC countries must also decide on the funds they will grant, and this is part of a process [words indistinct]. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Police Mobilized To Prevent Terrorist Attacks

PY1705171691 Lima Radio Nacional del Peru Pachacutec Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] A few hours before the 11th anniversary of the beginning of the Shining Path's criminal actions, more than 35,000 policemen have been ordered to remain at their posts to prevent a probable wave of terrorist attacks in metropolitan Lima.

National Police sources have said that the measure has already been implemented and will permit the reinforcement of protection for strategic facilities and patrols of Lima streets in order to counter probable outbursts of violence.

Red Cross Asked To Mediate To Free Policemen

PY2105015691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1900 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Lima, 20 May (EFE)—Peruvian Socialist Senator Enrique Bernales, president of the UN Human Rights Commission, today asked the Red Cross to mediate with terrorists for the release of nine policemen abducted on 11 May. The Peruvian Government is against this request.

Bernales, who also heads the Peruvian Congress Pacification Committee, said: "The lives of nine policemen are in danger."

Members of the communist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) attacked police stations in four towns in San Martin Department nine days ago. The terrorists abducted two junior officers and seven enlisted men from one of the National Police stations in La Rioja. San Martin Department, in the northwestern Peruvian jungle, is currently under a state of emergency and an eight-hour curfew while 350 soldiers and policemen search for the guerrillas and their hostages with the support of armed gunships.

The MRTA demands Red Cross mediation to free the policemen, while the government and the military high command have announced that they are not going to negotiate with the rebels or allow the Red Cross to do so.

Armin Kobel, a Red Cross representative, stated in Lima that he is in favor of mediating as long as Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori authorizes it.

A film shown by a television channel last night showed the abducted policemen; one of the junior officer asserted that they are in good health and have not been ill-treated. Junior Officer Cesar Delgado said they did not flee when they were attacked by the MRTA, and they were captured when they ran out of ammunition.

The police have asked Fujimori and Defense Minister General Jorge Torres to allow the Red Cross to mediate so the policemen may be "released soon" and have added that it seems the government "is acting somewhat indifferently" about the case.

Monsignor Jose Dammert, president of the Peruvian Bishops Conference, has stated that the church is willing to negotiate with the terrorists through its bishop in Moyobamba (capital of San Martin Department), Monsignor Venancio Orbe. Dammert said that the MRTA should free the policemen without any further negotiations if they want peace, "because words are not sufficient, concrete deeds are necessary."

Shining Path Targets Teachers; Exodus Results

PY1805145491

[Editorial Report] Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish on 12 May publishes on pages 16 and 17 an 1,800-word article by Monica Vecco entitled "200 Teachers Resign Due to Subversive Threat."

In the article, Vecco reports that "the Shining Path is making central range and jungle teachers its primary target," adding that the teachers are targeted for subversive "indoctrination campaigns" and "those who resist are killed." The article reports further that "hundreds of teachers have begun leaving" the threatened areas and "thousands of students have dropped out" of schools.

Vecco reports that "just in August of last year, 60 teachers disappeared from the Perene River area." According to Adolfo Chuquillanqui of Satipo's Education Services Unit, the Shining Path has taken teachers to train them to become "indoctrinators of the so-called Gonzalo thoughts." The report notes that if teachers resist "their corpses appear on any road as happened to eight teachers in Huancayo and Concepcion during the first four months of the year."

The article also states that "the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement" is "constantly threatening teachers with death," even though it does not kill them.

Vecco notes that "during the first four months of 1991, 200 teachers left their jobs in the central ranges" and "only 60 out of every 100 school-age youths attended school in Huancayo last year." The article quotes Education Secretary Antonio Alarcon Salvatierra as saying "almost 100 teachers are missing" in Huancayo.

According to the article, Alarcon pointed out that "security forces" could also be responsible for "the disappearance of an undetermined number of teachers." Last February "witnesses" saw "police in civilian clothes" arresting "teachers Wenceslao Caballero Torres, Gricelda Palomino Fuentes, Tino Lopez, and Isaias Hilario Trucios," and they have been missing since then.

Finally, the article reports that teachers' salaries in the area "are miserable," the number of teachers without degrees has "increased alarmingly," and according to Junin education official Julian Espinoza Gonzales, "the government must step in immediately to prevent a mass resignation" of educators.

'World Mission' Members Hurt in Attacks

PY1705204691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1754 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Lima, 17 May (EFE)—Official sources have confirmed that two members of the international humanitarian organization World Mission—one from Canada and one from Colombia—were seriously injured today in a terrorist attack in the Brena neighborhood in Lima.

According to a World Mission spokesman, Colombian citizen Jose Chuquin and Canadian citizen Norman Petterson were rushed to the Stella Maris Hospital, near the site of the attack, for emergency treatment. The spokesman pointed out that the World Mission is an international humanitarian organization with no religious affiliation.

Also in Lima, a Peruvian police captain and a sergeant were seriously wounded in the Comas neighborhood as they tried to deactivate a bomb wrapped in a red flag belonging to the Communist guerrilla organization Shining Path, which today commemorates the 11th anniversary of the beginning of its armed struggle.

Authorities at the Universidad Mayor de San Marcos, which has just celebrated the 440th anniversary of its founding by Spaniards, woke up today to find their premises filled with Shining Path flags. The incident was surprising because the dean had recently said that Shining Path infiltration into the university had abated.

Police reported that a Shining Path group commanded by two women murdered three people yesterday morning after subjecting them to a "popular trial" in the village of Carash, Ancash Department, in the Andean region. The guerrillas destroyed the village community house and post office with explosives and painted slogans exulting the armed struggle, which began on 17 May 1980 as Peru celebrated its first free elections after 12 years of military rule.

Bomb Scare Delays Flight; Security Augmented

PY1805164091 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Passengers on an Aeroflot plane were shaken by a false bomb scare today. The plane was ready to take off when the alarm was sounded. The passengers were immediately evacuated. The National Police's elite squad was rushed to the international airport and checked the plane, which had been moved to the area that is set apart for emergencies. After a careful search, the agents and their trained dogs dismissed the bomb threat as false.

Security measures have been reinforced at Jorge Chavez International Airport as a result of the incident. Strict security measures were implemented at the airport. The entry of any person—passengers or companions—is made only through a side door where people are thoroughly searched manually and with a metal detector. UDE [Explosives Deactivation Unit] agents and tourism police can be seen everywhere.

'Serious Incidents' at San Marcos University

PY1705220091 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] We have a last-minute report. Serious incidents have been provoked by San Marcos University students. Around noon today national police and Army troops were sent to the vicinity of the campus on Venezuela Avenue. The troops are now in the area. The incidents occurred after strong explosions were heard inside the university, after seditious persons who had infiltrated their way inside planted several bombs and left pieces of red cloth inside the building. Army troops have restricted vehicle and pedestrian traffic in the area.

Government Grants Asylum to Noriega Associates

PY1805160291 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 11 May 91 p 6

[Text] The Peruvian Foreign Ministry reported last night that the Panamanian Government has granted safe conduct to Gonzalo Gonzalez Rivera and Heraclides Sucre Medina, who will travel to Peru. Gonzalez and Sucre, who were majors in the now defunct Panamanian Defense Forces, were close associates of ousted dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The two former officers will arrive in Lima today. They have stayed at the Peruvian Embassy in Panama as refugees ever since December 1989, when U.S. troops invaded that Central American country to oust Noriega.

In a press note, the Foreign Ministry stated that Gonzalez and Sucre expressed their desire to come to Peru so the government granted them asylum in keeping with the terms of the 1954 Caracas Convention on Diplomatic Asylum.

Noriega's two former close associates were charged in Panama with involvement in the execution of their comrade-in-arms Moises Giraldi and eight other military men who participated in a failed military coup against Noriega on 3 October 1989.

Gonzalo Gonzalez was also involved in the abduction and murder of the grandson of Colonel Marcos Justini, a Noriega confidant, whom the former dictator had given $80 million in drug trafficking profits.

PRC Begins Aid to Peru With Plant Contract

PY1905235291 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 7 May 91 p 4

[Excerpt] The PRC Government began its economic and technical aid to Peru with the signing of a contract for construction of the San Martin cement plant.

The contract was signed last night by acting President Maximo San Roman; (Zhou Hongtao), chief of the PRC

technical mission; and Sergio Guerra Chombo, chairman of the San Martin Development Corporation. Also present at the ceremony, which was held in the Golden Room of Government House, was PRC Ambassador Dai-Shiqi and PRC technical mission engineers and experts.

First Vice President Maximo San Roman stressed the importance of the cement plant, which, in June, will begin producing 30,000 metric tons per year. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Union Leaders Call 24-Hour Strike for 21 May

PY2105003891 Madrid EFE in English 2126 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Montevideo, May 20 (EFE)—Union leaders in Uruguay are calling a 24-hour general strike Tuesday [21 May] after days of stoppages in the public sector in support of wage claims. The Inter-union Plenary National Workers Convention (PIT-CNT), says the strike is also to protest impending privatization plans.

In the last two weeks, Uruguay has been plagued by stoppages and slowdowns carried out by post office workers, teachers, public registry workers, and employees of the state fuel distribution monopoly. Union leaders say the government has failed to make good on promises to keep public sector wages at 1989 levels. They reject the government's proferred 18 per cent wage hike on state workers' collective contracts, on the basis that inflation during the last four months has hit 21 per cent.

PIT-CNT said that they would guarantee water, electricity, telephone and emergency health services during the strike.

Labor and Social Security Minister Carlos Cat called the strike "lamentable and irrational, coming at a time when the two parties are seeking a negotiated settlement."

Tuesday's stoppage will be the third 24-hour general strike called by the PIT-CNT since March last year when President Luis A[illegible]erto Lacalle took office. Lacalle, who is currently in the United States where he will meet Tuesday with U.S. President George Bush, has accused the unions of "not giving us a moment's peace."

Labor Minister Criticizes Strike

PY2105023691 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 2331 GMT 20 May 91

[Speech by Labor and Social Welfare Minister Carlos Cat; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] A labor sector strike is scheduled for tomorrow. We deem it a great mistake and a chance to—through this means—ask a few questions and ponder certain issues.

The first question we want to ask is: Why strike? What are the real reasons for it?

The labor leaders have said that the strike is being staged primarily for the following three reasons:

First, because they say the government has not complied with its commitment to increase the salaries of public servants;

Second, and listen to this, to voice their opposition against state reform; and

Third, to voice their solidarity with the labor unions that are currently in conflict.

Let us review these three reasons separately.

The first reason: The government has not complied with its commitments to increase the salaries of public servants. Let us discuss the case of the central administration and organizations included under Article No. 220 of the Constitution. The situation is exactly the opposite. The government has complied with all of its commitments.

Salary increases granted as of 1 May 1991: The executive branch established an 18 percent salary increase; family and seniority allotments increased by 31 percent, the same increase applied to the national minimum salary; and the government contribution to the social security service increased by 40 percent. For an average servant earning between 300,000 and 350,000 pesos—that is, the equivalent of two-and-a-half and three minimum national salaries in April 1991—with two children, 10 years seniority, and a right to social benefits, the average increase amounts to approximately 21 percent.

Fulfillment of the executive branch's commitments: Last January the executive branch promised that after the salary increase granted in May, the real salary of central administration servants would cease to lose its purchasing power and would start to recover its value. It was agreed during a 17 May meeting between high-ranking executive branch officials, the PIT-CNT [Interunion Workers Plenum-National Convention of Workers], and COFE [Confederation of Public Servants Organizations] that this promise has been fulfilled. The average real salary for the January-April 1991 quarter increased by 2 percent when compared to the previous quarter. It is estimated that with the 18 percent salary increase, the real salary will recover its purchasing power in the next quarter.

For those sectors that have received an increase similar to the one just mentioned—that is, 21 percent—the increase in their real salary will be significantly greater.

The government also promised to try to bri g the 1991 average real salary up to the level of the average real salary prevailing in 1990. We will only see whether this has been achieved at the end of 1991, but from what I have already mentioned, we are on the path to fulfilling this goal.

What else did the government commit itself to do? It promised to order the existing bilateral commission to review the lower salaries with a view toward the upcoming rendering of accounts and to try and increase the percentage of the government contribution to the social security system for lower income sectors as of September 1991.

Let us look at public salaries for autonomous enterprises and decentralized services: In January 1991, the executive branch and the Labor Coordinating Board [Mesa Sindical Coordinadora] agreed on certain guidelines for the 1 May 1991 salary increase. These guidelines, however, were too complex to implement and had contradictory interpretations. The two parties, in a calm atmosphere and free of any type of pressure because the labor measures that were being implemented became more flexible and were then suspended, mutually agreed to modify the agreement without changing its spirit. The executive branch and the Labor Coordinating Board thus amended the main problems in the original agreement and left other aspects to be discussed later. As a result, guidelines for the salary increase to be granted by each state enterprise on 1 May 1991 were established.

In other words, it is very obvious that the government fulfilled its commitment. Despite the fact that this has been recognized, the strike has been decreed. The answer may lie in the other reasons.

The second reason is that the Uruguayan workers are against state reform. In other words, you have all been told that you must go on strike, that you must stop working to prevent the Congress from voting on the law on public enterprises. As you all well know, state reform was included in the governing party's electoral program, as well as that of other political parties and sectors that support the government. It was backed by a clear majority of the citizenry during the 1989 national elections. The people not only voted for the plan to reorganize the state, they voted to shrink its deficit, to make it more efficient.

The people not only democratically voted for it in 1989, but today, one-and-a-half years later, according to all known public polls, the great majority still agree on the need to reform the state. The people wish to carry out this state reform in Uruguay in order to change our country, as is the case throughout the world—in Latin America, in the old communist countries that are desperately asking for foreign investments and seeking to improve their public services.

But now we in Uruguay are being asked to stop working tomorrow in order to protest against state reform. In addition to the contradiction this entails—the fact that it contradicts evolution—this attitude represents a serious intervention by the labor unions in political affairs. The subject of state reform is, according to the Constitution, an issue that strictly involves the state powers, the executive and legislative branches, and the political parties. It is not a subject for the labor union leadership to declare a strike in an attempt to jeopardize a reform that Congress is debating.

The third reason for tomorrow's strike is to voice solidarity with the labor unions that are in conflict. We ask all of you, ladies and gentlemen, regardless of your political leanings, to frankly assess the current labor situation in Uruguay. There are no such significant conflicts; there is no atmosphere of conflict and unrest in the labor sector as in the past. Except for a few cases, peace has and continues to prevail in most labor sectors. In the private sector, updated agreements that have been accepted by both parties ensure peace and a harmonious relationship between employers and employees. Therefore, for whom is tomorrow's strike?

This question has no answer. We believe a big mistake has been made and that this will be another unnecessary political strike.

This strike represents an affront to the spirit of dialogue and negotiation established between the government and labor unions. The much-required dialogue that the government has agreed to establish is now cut by a decision of one of the parties. As we have seen, their arguments are groundless.

Job opportunities are another reason mentioned in justifying the strike. The government makes great efforts to increase, through investments in the country, the number of job opportunities. This type of strike discourages investments.

We do not think this is the right path to take. We believe in dialogue and we try, as we have already shown, to negotiate before resorting to extreme measures. Unfortunately, our interlocutor this time hastily decided to stage a political and groundless strike. Let us hope everyone will reflect and that there will still be space for negotiations, dialogue, and understanding between all Uruguayans. We will continue to strive for this. Thank you.

Garrison Attacked by Unidentified Individuals

PY1905232691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1804 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Montevideo, 19 May (EFE)—A group of unidentified individuals fired at an Army Cavalry garrison guard post. There were no casualties in the attack, but the police have mobilized under a general state of alert.

Official sources told EFE today that at 0100 this morning (0400 GMT), three individuals fired several times at a Cavalry Regiment No. 1 guard post in a suburban Montevideo neighborhood. The guard repelled the attack from his shelter, and a military unit went after the attackers but failed to catch them.

Military officers have reported the incident to police so that investigations can begin and have briefed the judge on duty about the case. Uruguayan police intelligence services are working on the clues: the brand, color, and

model of the car, although they do not know the license number, and the bullets, which were fired from automatic weapons.

Protest Planned Over Spanish Stance on Exports

PY1805032091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0132 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Montevideo, 15 May (EFE)—The restrictions imposed by the European Community (EC) on exports of citrus fruits by some Latin American countries unleashed a wave of criticism in Uruguay today. The criticism is aimed especially at Spain, a promoter of the initiative, for not complying with the spirit of cooperation on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America.

The initiative of Spain, the main European exporter of citrus, has prompted criticism and distrust in official circles and among the Uruguayan media, which has termed the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America as "mere words."

The Uruguayan Government has expressed its "annoyance" with the Spanish attitude within the EC on this matter.

In their editorials, the newspapers refer to "the ups and downs" of the celebration of the 500th anniversary and to remarks made by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell, who said Uruguay voiced its "strong" protest over the Spanish decision to close its doors to citrus exports.

"Our delegation to the EC has requested a discussion of the matter, but the truth is that the Spanish position is absolutely intransigent. They are not willing to talk about the problem of Uruguayan citrus," Gros Espiell said.

In a seminar on "Journalism and Integration" organized in the citrus production center of Salto, 520 km northwest of Montevideo, the foreign minister said: "Spain is thus demonstrating that the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America is mere words."

According to Gros Espiell, Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle, who is touring Paraguay, Canada, and the United States, has instructed the Foreign Ministry to officially state that "for us the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America is not a mere verbal expression or a retrospective look, but a concrete form of solidarity and cooperation."

He added: "With this type of measure, it becomes clear that the celebration is just the opposite, just words."

A few weeks ago Uruguayan exporters reported that Spain was imposing a much more restrictive position within the EC than is established in traditional agreements for health control measures on imports.

The Uruguayan businessmen's report warned against the damage the Spanish initiative could cause to Uruguayan production, with 72 percent of citrus exports earmarked for EC countries.

Following this diplomatic reaction, the newspaper LA REPUBLICA states in an editorial that "at this time in history we do not believe that there could be a single Spaniard with some intelligence and education who can doubt what he owes to America since the 'conquest.' Making a list of these debts would be in very bad taste, going too far," the editorial adds.

[In a related 450-word report datelined Toronto, Madrid EFE in Spanish at 2124 GMT on 17 May adds: "Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell today told EFE in Toronto that Uruguay will lodge an official protest with Spain next week over its restrictions on the entry of Uruguayan citrus fruits into the Spanish and EC markets."]

Venezuela

Government To Protest Tuna Embargo at GATT

PA1805041591 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 May 91

[Text] This week Venezuela will protest the tuna embargo. It will request from the GATT U.S. compensation for the damage caused by the tuna embargo against our country.

A meeting was held in Sucre State to review the situation affecting the tuna industry. Possible actions to resolve the problem resulting from the embargo on tuna exports in the U.S. and EEC markets were discussed.

It was decided to take the first action before the GATT. Venezuela will participate in a working group in which Mexico will review the impact of the U.S. legislation on exports.

Here are statements by Foreign Trade Institute Director Laura Rojas and Sucre State Governor Eduardo Morales Gil:

[Begin recording] [Rojas, in progress] ...an allegation against the U.S. protectionist law in favor of its own tuna fleet, which prevents access of our tuna to U.S. markets.

[Morales Gil] We have a natural market, which is the eastern Caribbean, the U.S. East Coast, and Europe. However, we still do not have a well-documented study on the subject. There has been traditional trade between Venezuela and eastern Caribbean countries, but there are no statistics. Therefore, we believe that we should try to broaden and strengthen our commercial relations with those countries, which would be of great benefit to Sucre State. [end recording]

Cabinet Outlines Government Privatization Plan

PA1705233091 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 May 91

[Report by Diana Iturriza from the Miraflores Presidential Palace]

[Text] The members of the economic cabinet today reviewed the situation of different companies that will be privatized in the next few days. OCI [Central Information Office] Director Luis Vezga Godoy announced that, during this economic cabinet meeting, Herbert Torres, minister president of the Venezuelan Investment Fund, first presented the plan for the privatization of all sugar mills in the country. These sugar mills are El Tocuyo, Rio Yaracuy, Urena, Motatan, Las Majaguas, Tacarigo, and Cumanacoa, which will be privatized through a public bid, guaranteeing the participation of workers and sugar cane producers as new co-owners of these companies.

In addition, the economic cabinet members analyzed the schedule for the privatization of CANTV [expansion unknown], Banco Republica, the government hotels, FINABE [expansion unknown] company, and Viasa airline. They added that 21 June is the deadline to receive bids from different international companies that are interested in buying stocks in Viasa.

[Begin recording] [Luis Vezga Godoy] After the process of gathering documents to prepare for the bidding, the government will announce on 1 July the companies that are qualified to buy stock in state-owned companies. We estimate that we will announce the corresponding public bid on 2 August. [end recording]

Regarding the future of the Banco Industrial de Venezuela, Finance Minister Roberto Pocaterra said that President Perez will meet soon with the president of the Banco Industrial de Venezuela, among other personalities, in order to propose solutions. For now, the privatization of Banco Industrial de Venezuela has been ruled out.

The privatization of the Venezuelan Social Security Fund [IVSS] has also been ruled out, according to IVSS President Euclides Moreno. The members of the economic cabinet agreed to restructure the Social Security Fund so as to decentralize it.

[Begin recording] [Euclides Moreno] We are going to present each state a proposal for the creation of a committee or council similar to that of Caracas. This council will be formed by prominent civilians from society, to include the governor, as well as the highest representative of workers and private enterprise, and the representative of the medical association so that each state can handle social security affairs in accordance with its needs. [end recording]

Euclides Moreno said that the debts of the IVSS have been identified, adding that they amount to 7.860 billion bolivars in public debt and more than 14 billion in private debt. He also announced the implementation in the next few days of an aggressive fee collection program.

Regional Group of Parties Meets in Caracas

PA1905154891 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 May 91

[Text] A meeting of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties, COPPPAL, will end today with a speech by Humberto Celli, Democratic Action Party secretary general. The event, which is taking place in Caracas, seeks to rescue the role played by political parties in important continental decisions.

COPPPAL tries to unify criteria in favor of Latin American international economic relations by strengthening the regional political organizations represented at the legislative and governmental levels. Nicaraguan Sandinist Commander Tomas Borge, who participated in this conference, was the center of attention.

Borge, who represented the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, requested peaceful support for Nicaragua's democratic presence. He added that the correlation of forces in Nicaragua is such that the country's stability is guaranteed.

[Begin Borge recording] President Violeta Chamorro has made efforts to obtain aid in Europe, Japan, and the United States. We have supported those efforts. Although some aid has been received, it is not enough. The superpowers are capable of spending dozens of billions of dollars in 24 hours of war, but are not capable of stretching out their hands to help our impoverished countries with anything more than a few cents. [end recording]

Commenting on the scope of the political proposals being discussed, Homero Parra, who heads the International Economic Relations Commission, said that the ideas are having an effective and timely influence on government decisions.

[Begin Parra recording] We promote the systematic analysis and profound study of Latin American economic problems to guide our leaders and influence political parties and [word indistinct] toward achieving more efficient economic and social development on our continent. [end recording]

Reorganization of State-Owned Television Approved

PA1905193691 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] The plan for the reorganization of Venezolana de Television Canal 8 was approved by a council of ministers. Their intention is to turn the state-owned television station into a public service system.

The president of Venezolana de Television, Alvaro Vilacha, said in Miraflores Palace that the Venezuelan Investment Fund will provide nearly 1.2 billion bolivars for the reorganization process, which will contribute to the strengthening of Venezolana de Television through a

single channel. The temporary closure of national television channel 5, which will go off the air in 15 days, was approved until other options are submitted.

[Begin Vilacha recording] The television channel will honor all of its 1991 commitments and beginning in January 1992 will carry no more commercials. The state will assume its costs, and the financing sources will be the national budget, sponsorship from the public and private sector, and other financing mechanisms, but there will be no more commercials. We hope that in a period of eight months we will have strengthened the channel from the point of view of signals and transmissionns to the entire nation. [end recording]

The interministerial commission that actively participated in the decision was comprised of the ministers of education, transport and communications, culture, coordination and planning, the promotion of women, the Investment Fund, COPRE [Presidential Committee to Reform the State], and the president of Venezolana de Television.

The 1.2 billion-bolivar contribution, which will be made by the Venezuelan Investment Fund, will take place in the next 10 days. Meanwhile, channel 8 will continue with its noon newscasts.

Guyana

United Kingdom Reschedules $69.7 Million Debt

FL1705212191 Bridgetown CANA in English 1946 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 17, CANA—The United Kingdom has rescheduled some 40.5 million pounds sterling (U.S. 69.7 million dollars) of Guyana's debts, it has been officially announced here.

An agreement was signed in Georgetown on Wednesday by Finance Minister Carl Greenidge and British High Commissioner Douglas Gordon. Two components in the rescheduled package encompass some 36.5 million pounds in commercial grants, and the remaining four million pounds in official bilateral debts.

The debts have been pushed back to May 15, 2000, with liquidation after semi-annual payments ending on November 15, 2005. In December, 1989, the UK rescheduled some 75 million pounds sterling of Guyana's debts. Bilateral debts of 31 million pounds have been rescheduled so far by the UK last month; Germany rescheduled some U.S.12.8 million dollars in local debts; while the United States pushed back 22 million dollars in March.

Similar agreements are expected shortly with Japan and France. Canada, Norway, Denmark, the United States, Germany, and Britain have already concluded such agreements with the Guyana government, which has debts of some two billion dollars.

Absence of Caricom Election Observers Noted

FL1705145091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1222 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 17, CANA - Guyanese who feel "let down" by the absence of a Caribbean Community (Caricom) [Caribbean Common Market] observers team for Guyana's coming general elections have accused heads of government of avoiding the issue of free and fair elections in the country, Trinidadian political economist Dr. Selwyn Ryan has said.

"They feel that the Caricom heads of state have ducked the issue of Guyana. They have done so for a long time and they continue to feel so," Ryan told reporters here on Thursday, following publication of a report by a Caribbean Conference of Churches mission to Guyana.

Ryan, who was part of the team to Guyana last year, said the Guyanese people wanted a Caricom presence at their general elections and felt that Caricom representation in a commonwealth team being sent to observe the poll was "not enough".

Guyanese, he said, saw a Caricom observers team as being "symbolically important".

"They feel the Trinidad and Tobago government has been the one which has been most accommodating.... Some think Trinidad and Tobago is interfering," he added.

Ryan said because of the political considerations at the level of the heads of governments, Guyanese feel they have not been given the kind of concern and attention they believe they deserve.

"I think it's very important that...Guyanese people should not be left with the feeling that in their moment of crisis and in their times of trouble that their Caricom brothers and sisters have abandoned them," he remarked.

The political scientist said he believes that President Desmond Hoyte belongs to the "liberal wing" of the ruling People's National Congress which supports free and fair elections.

"The rumours are that there are some people who would rather remove him from leadership, rather than go into that elections without being certain that the outcome is a victory," Ryan said.

Fewer Register Than Expected; No Extension

FL1805012391 Bridgetown CANA in English 2225 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 17, CANA—There will be no extension of voter registration in Guyana beyond Friday's deadline for completion of the exercise, Elections Commission and national registration officials decided. Some 299,000 people were registered up to Sunday, 50,000 less than the expected number.

When the exercise, which began on February 18, concludes, registration officials should begin feeding the information gathered across the country into computers.

Commissioner of national registration, Andy Jacobs, said that he believed he could have a draft list, comprised of about 95 percent registrants, ready by mid-June. Copies of this draft list will then be made available to all interested political parties.

Jacobs, who had indicated his belief to the Carter Centre officials, here to observe the process early last month, also said that he can have a complete preliminary list ready by July 1.

Enthusiasm from eligible voters has been lacking, and remained so, despite a concerted publicity campaign launched by the government and opposition parties to encourage people to register.

PDM Members Seek Extension

FL2005115591 Bridgetown CANA in English 2037 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 18, CANA—Two members of a small opposition party have gone to Guyana's Supreme Court seeking an extension of voter-registration, according to the state-owned CHRONICLE newspaper. The paper said the Supreme Court faced a motion filed by Chaya Patterson and Everton Peters, members of the People's Democratic Movement (PDM).

The registration, designed to compile a new voters list, ended Friday. The two opposition politicians are asking the high court to declare that the decision taken by the elections commission to conclude the exercise is ultra vires the Constitution of Guyana and is also a violation of the constitutional rights of they and other citizens entitled to be registered.

The state-owned newspaper said that the motion named Attorney General and Legal Affairs Minister Keith Massiah, the elections commission, and commissioner of national registration, Andy Jacobs, as respondents. The motion is scheduled to come up for hearing on June 4 before Justice Prem Persaud. The PDM is headed by lawyer Lewellyn John.

Suriname

Indian Oppositionist Views Election Issues

PM2005150991 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 17 May 91 p 3

[Hans Buddingh' report: "Surinamese Indians Threaten To Resume Guerrilla War"]

[Text] Paramaribo, 17 May—In a report as long ago as 1974, Alex N. Jubithana brought the rights of the Surinamese Indians to the attention of the Royal Commission, which was preparing the way for Surinamese independence. "There is an important difference. Then we had no weapons. Now we do," he said. Jubithana, a man with sharp Indian features, is chairman of the "Council of Eight," the political arm of the armed Tucayana opposition in Suriname.

The 54-year-old teacher of agriculture at a school in Paramaribo and his fellow council members do not believe that the present interim government, which came to power after last December's "telephone coup," will succeed in achieving peace in the last week before the elections. That would only be possible if the Indians' demands with regard to their territory are met. "I really do not see how this is possible in the short period remaining," Jubithana said. Earlier, Jungle Commando leader Ronnie Brunswijk spoke in not-too-optimistic terms to this newspaper about the prospects of reaching a peace accord before the elections.

According to Jubithana, in the last few weeks the Council of Eight—which numbers more than twice the number its name would suggest—has held talks with President J. Kraag and Vice President J. Wijdenbosch. He blames the fact that agreement still has not been reached on the Indians' demands on the "obstruction" of the civil servants who belong to the parties that formed the government that was removed from office by the Army at Christmas.

The Tucayanas—a self-chosen collective name for the approximately 15,000 Arawaks, Caribs, and Trios who live in Suriname—spoke after the coup of a "political framework" in which their demands were formulated. The document was written by the Council of Eight after consultations with the village heads (captains) of all the 52 Indian villages. The preamble speaks of "eliminating the backwardness of the aboriginal population."

For the first time, the document makes an explicit linkage between the demands and armed conflict. It was presented to the Surinamese Government earlier this year and, according to Jubithana, the Netherlands Embassy received a copy a few weeks ago. During his visit to Paramaribo last year, Netherlands Development Cooperation Minister Pronk was handed a list of the Tucayanas' demands. However, it contained no threat that the demands would be reinforced by armed force.

According to the document, the Indians must be given the opportunity to develop their own economic activity and greater control over the government of their community. They also demand that an almost 15-year-old law declaring their territory to be public lands be repealed. According to the document, concessions and allocations of land in these "village territories" must be reversed. "It is these objectives for which we are prepared to take up arms," the document states. The Tucayanas take as the example for their demands what aboriginal peoples elsewhere in the world—such as the Canadian Indians—have been able to achieve in treaties, for example.

According to Jubithana, the Front [for Democracy and Development] government, which comprised the Creoles' Suriname National Party, the Hindustanis' Progressive Reform Party, and the Javanese population's Indonesian Peasants' Party, and which was toppled by the Army in December, was not even prepared to discuss the demands. "For the parties, it was the usual thing of protecting the big boys. A large number of rich members of the Progressive Reform Party had profited from wood concessions in the interior." According to Jubithana, the Hague's attitude toward the toppled government was much too lax. As a result, the The Council of Eight would like to see the elections bring the NDP [National Democratic Party], which is allied to the Army leadership, into government.

According to Jubithana, the Tucayanas' political arm is positive toward the "Lubbers plan" for a sort of commonwealth with Suriname, "to the extent that it gives the aboriginal inhabitants a share in power." The Tucayanas' political representative takes the view that the Netherlands Government must exert great pressure on a new Surinamese Government in talks on a commonwealth relationship. "As long as there is no peace, there will be no commonwealth," Jubithana said. At present a sort of armed peace prevails in Suriname. And what about a peace accord? "That will only come when our social, economic, and cultural well-being have been guaranteed." This threat and the Indians' demands could seriously hamper the talks between the Netherlands and Suriname, which are due to take place after the elections.

Jubithana, who emphasized that he speaks for the full Council of Eight, also takes the view that the first thing that Brunswijk's Jungle Commando must do is lay down its arms. "A great danger to us would then have been removed." The Tucayanas would then follow suit. Jubithana pointed out that the Indians' armed opposition was a reaction to the activities of the Jungle Commando. "It is not the case that we do not want peace. We Indians are the most peace-loving of people."

According to the Council of Eight, the demands with regard to territory mean that in certain territories, which remain to be determined in greater detail, the Indians must be able to take "administrative action." The exploitation of raw materials that may be found in the future must in part benefit the aboriginal population group. According to Jubithana, the Surinamese Government should ratify international conventions in this respect.

Jubithana and his colleagues dispute the widespread view in Paramaribo that the Tucayanas' armed opposition is a creation of Army leader Bouterse, whose aim was to use it to sabotage the Kourou accord between the then government and the Jungle Commando. Jubithana: "You have to view the relationship between the Indians and the Army from a historical perspective. After the abolition of slavery, it was the military that transported things like medicines into the interior. The friendly relationship has always been there."

Is the Council of Eight also aware of the fact that there is supposed to be a cocaine route through the area controlled by the Tucayanas? Jubithana said that he has no firm indications of this. "If there were proof, I would condemn it." The leader of the political arm of the Indians' armed opposition admitted that not all Indians in Suriname agree with the Council of Eight. "There is a minority who do not have a firm political vision. We, at any rate, will never abandon ours."

Human Rights Group Fears Post-Election Coup

FL2105022091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2150 GMT 20 May 91

[Report by Rickey Singh]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 20, CANA—Fears of a military coup after elections scheduled for Suriname May 25 have been expressed in a toughly worded report from a human rights mission that monitored arrangements for the poll. The mission's report said the election is expected to be free and fair, but "voter apathy" and the post-election role of the military are issues of "grave concern."

Caribbean Rights and Americas Watch staged the mission. A military coup December 24 last year ousted the government of President Ramsewak Shankar, elected in Suriname in 1987, and was sharply criticised by some governments of the Caribbean Community (Caricom), in which Suriname has observer status.

"It is universally believed that what happens after the election will be far more important than what happens on election day," the mission's report, made available to CANA, said. Reviewing human rights conditions, the two groups said Suriname's experience of coups and counter-coups, military executions, and abuses of power have not been forgotten. Describing the 1987 election as a "model," the mission said the elected leaders were impotent in controlling the military.

"The military, for its part, allowed the election to take place and the winners to assume office. It then proceeded to run the country as it had since the 1980 coup. The fear that this will happen again is one shared by many in Suriname," the 24-page report said.

The mission members were: University of the West Indies political scientist, Dr. Neville Duncan, and Guyana trade union leader, Nanda Gopaul, for Caribbean Rights; and Dr. Robert Goldman and L. Fleischman, both lawyers, for Americas Watch.

The report of the one-week mission said, "Most Surinamese believe that the balloting itself will proceed without major incidents, (but) there is cause for concern that the election will not bring an end to de facto military rule and its attendant unchecked violence."

The mission also concluded that: "Beneath the superficial calm in the country, those engaged in politics are fearful of acting in a way that might trigger a reaction from the military."

It said, "(Former coup leader) Lt. Col Desi Bouterse continues to run the country and, like the Army he commands, remains above the rule of law," and the justice system is incapable of investigating and prosecuting "notorious criminal cases, involving leading military personnel.

"Many Surinamese now speak seriously about a new political relationship with Holland (the former colonising power), including military ties," the report added.

The report recommended that the Johan Kraag interim administration ensure the Army and "paramilitary groups, particularly the Tucanaya Amazonas," neither do not impede free access of opposition political parties and candidates to all parts of the country during the election campaign, nor interfere on May 25.

The transitional government is also urged to guarantee that "state agents, in particular the Army, refrain from harassing or threatening or otherwise interfering with members of the press and local human rights organizations." The report recommended that the new government to be formed after May 25 immediately disarm and disband all paramilitary groups involved in conflicts in the interior region. All human rights violations committed since the first military coup of February 25, 1980, should also be "vigorously investigated" and prosecuted.

The report said the Government of Brazil should terminate military training and other assistance for the Suriname Army. It added that countries with potential influence in Suriname, Holland and the United States and others, should extend support to help end military intimidation of the Surinamese Government.

Government Summons Envoy in Netherlands for Talks

PY2105012491 Paramaribo Radio Suriname International in English 1730 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] The Suriname Government has summoned Surinamese Ambassador to Holland Cyrill Ramkisoor to come to Paramaribo for consultations in relation to articles (?in the) Dutch press about statements from the ambassador regarding the elections, the national Army, and the recent expulsion of two Surinamese diplomats by Holland.

The alleged statements have been published by the Dutch daily (SUTELKLAF). According to the daily, the ambassador has forecasted a 70 percent victory of the traditional political parties in the coming elections while he also gave his opinion about the diminishing role of the Army. Talking about the recent expulsion of two Surinamese diplomats by the Dutch Government, the ambassador is quoted to say that Holland should have had good reason to do so.

The Suriname Government has summoned the ambassador to Paramaribo to get some clarity in relation to the publication. Last year the ambassador was also in fault in such case and was then accused of making statements against Army commander Bouterse. The ambassador has denied those accusations. Ambassador Ramkisoor is expected in Suriname coming Wednesday [22 May].